Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE NORTHERN MARIANAS'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Man accused of beating son is found not guilty. » PAGE 5

Mazda expands US air bag recall to nationwide. » PAGE 17

SAKE CEREMONY
House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Gov. Eloy Inos, Saipan Mayor Marian Tudela, and Japan Consul Hitoshi Kikuchi lead the sake ceremony at Emperor Akihito's birthday reception Wednesday night at the Hafadai Beach Hotel. The 125th emperor of Japan will turn 81 years old on Dec. 23.

DENNIS B. CHAN

See story on Page 18

Volume XXIV, Issue No. 247

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12, 2014

www.saipantribune.com

Tinian election challenge nixed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» San Nicolas thankful, says he has so much respect for CEC
» Dela Cruz disappointed, but accepts court's decision

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja dismissed yesterday Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz's election challenge over the victory of Joey Patrick San Nicolas in the Tinian mayoral race.

See ELECTION on Page 4

Pete A: Best Sunshine eyeing 3 sites

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Best Sunshine International Ltd. is already eyeing three tracts of lands on Saipan where it will build parts of its $7.1-billion integrated casino resort project, according to Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio yesterday.

These areas include public lands adjacent to DFS Saipan Limited property in Garapan, public lands previously offered to Sunshine 100 in Marpi, and public lands in Naftan Point.

Tenorio

DFS Saipan previously eyed the Garapan public land, as it earlier wanted to build a 350-room luxury resort hotel near the former Samoan housing. The luxury retailer was supposed to combine private land it already owned and public land to build the facility.

DFS Saipan reportedly has allocated its private land to Best Sunshine, which is why the latter is now eyeing the public land in Garapan that has access to the beach.

The Marpi public land, meanwhile, was previously offered to Sunshine 100 but the company opted to lease private land north of the property. DPL

See PETE A on Page 4

Saipan food stamp benefits to rise 16 pct.

Saipan families and individuals who use the Nutrition Assistance Program to help put food on the table will see their benefits rise by 16 percent on Jan. 1, 2015.

The Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved the increase in a letter to Laura Ogumoro, Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, on Dec. 5.

For a family of four, the maximum food stamp benefit would go up from $444 to $515 per month. Rota and the Northern Islands received an increase of 62 percent earlier this year and Tinian an increase of 28 percent. The changes reflect the differences in the cost of food on each island.

FNS gave the Commonwealth the option of increasing the Saipan benefit from 10 to 16 percent and at the recommendation of Gov. Eloy Inos, Ogumoro chose the largest possible increase.

See FOOD on Page 4

Hocog will be next Senate president

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota), the current vice president of the 18th Senate, will be the Senate president of the 19th Legislature after a caucus of incoming and current senators chose him to become the upper chamber's next leader.

Hocog

"I'm looking forward to working with the [incoming] leadership of the Senate composed of nine members as well as working with the executive and hopefully we get to find out the leadership of the House so we can meet in advance and move forward to focus on challenges before us," said Hocog in a phone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Hocog won without challenges from any incoming or current senator.

"I guess members feel that they have confidence in me to lead the group in the right direction. That's all I need in bonding one CNMI mentality rather than making boundaries among Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

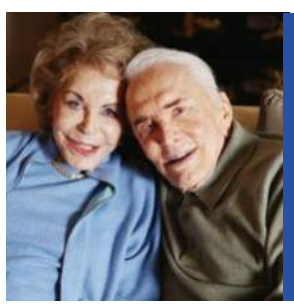
Hocog is the most senior member among senators in the incoming 19th Senate. As per tradition, the Senate lead-

See HOCOG on Page 4

INSIDE

ASIA
Hong Kong starts clearing barricades from a pro-democracy protest camp.
» PAGE 21

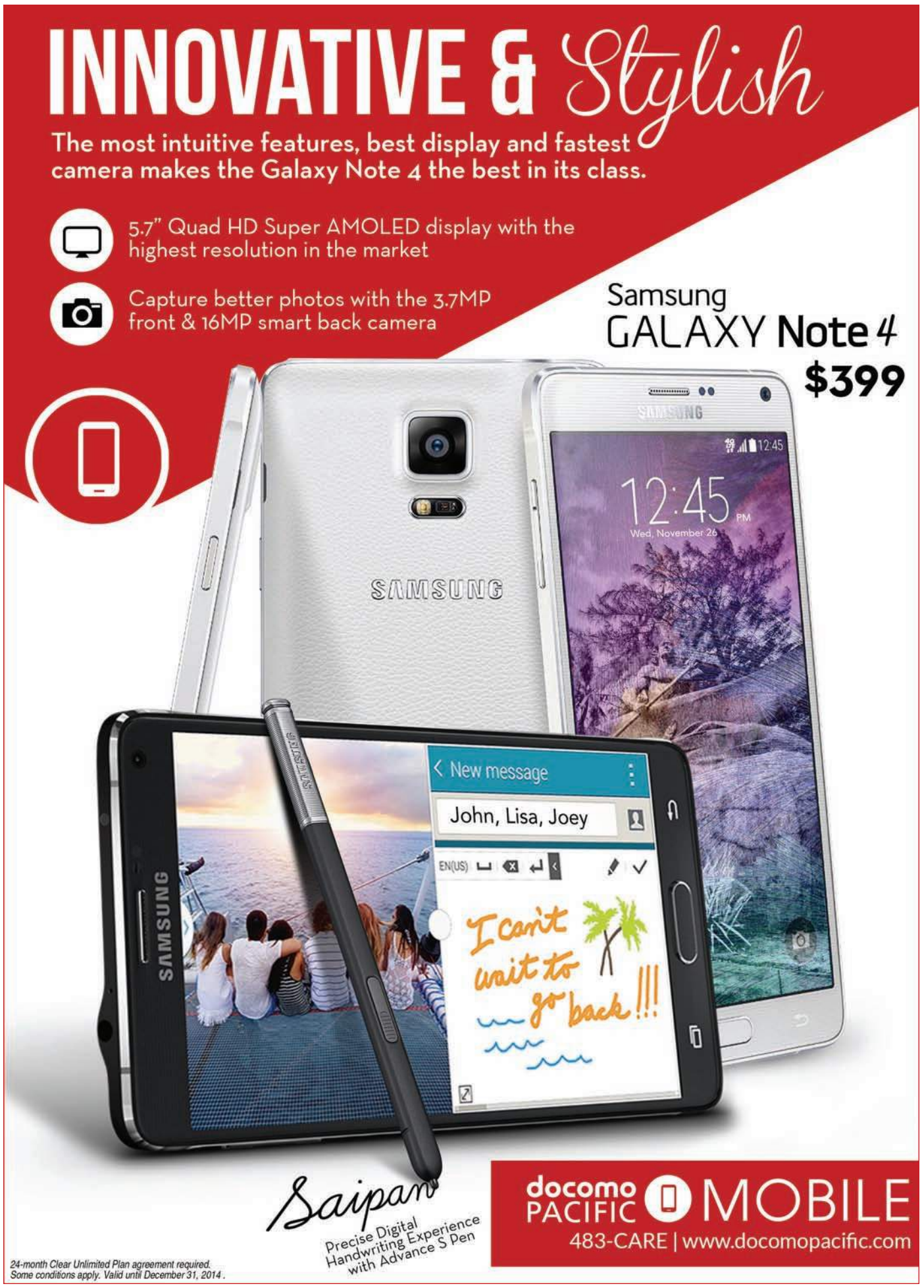
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
The mystery of where Earth's water came from just got murkier.
» PAGE 23



LIFE & STYLE
Kirk and Anne Douglas reflect on their 60-year romance.
» PAGE 24

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397
235-2440
FAX: 235-3740
EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local


INNOVATIVE & Stylish
The most intuitive features, best display and fastest camera makes the Galaxy Note 4 the best in its class.
5.7" Quad HD Super AMOLED display with the highest resolution in the market
Capture better photos with the 3.7MP front & 16MP smart back camera
Samsung GALAXY Note 4
$399
SAMSUNG
12:45 PM
Wed, November 26
New message
John, Lisa, Joey
I can't wait to go back !!!
Saipan
Precise Digital Handwriting Experience with Advance S Pen
docomo PACIFIC MOBILE
483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com
24-month Clear Unlimited Plan agreement required.
Some conditions apply. Valid until December 31, 2014 .

Feasibility study on Rota nat'l park in defense bill

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While an agreement on H.R. 3979 between the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate last week left out a provision regarding the location of a divert airfield in the CNMI, the National Defense Authorization Act included authorization of a study on the suitability and feasibility of establishing a national park on Rota.

"I have been working toward this accomplishment for some time and it looks as though we are finally going to get there. Although we are still probably five years from completing the study, establishing a national park could be a game-changer for Rota's economy," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

The National Park Service was earlier quoted by *Saipan Tribune* that "the southernmost island of the CNMI preserves striking examples of the 3,000-year-old Chamorro culture surrounded by the best remaining expanse of this island chain's native limestone forest."

NPS went on to say that the Mochon Latte Village, the Chugai Pictograph Cave, the Taga Latte Stone Quarry, and the Alaguan Bay Ancient Village prehistoric sites include architectural features unique to the ancient Chamorro culture and represent outstanding examples of the island's cultural resource.

Sablan, meanwhile, said while H.R. 3979 dropped his provision that would have allowed for a divert airfield to be placed at "any suitable location" in the CNMI, he is still optimistic because Congress has not entirely thumbed down the provision.

"The defense bill did not include a provision I sought that would allow spending for a divert field anywhere in the Northern Marianas. However, Congress has left the door open to the Air Force for approval of this provision, if the environmental impact study expected to be completed in February concludes that Saipan is not the best location for the divert activities," he said.

Sablan's provision would have followed provisions last year that barred the expenditure of authorized funds until the Air Force reports to Congress alternatives and construction requirements for the divert airfield.

Sablan and the CNMI government both prefer the divert airfield to be placed on Tinian, where already two-thirds of land is leased to the U.S. military. The U.S. Air Force has expressed a

See FEASIBILITY on Page 4

Korean Air Force members arrive

Ninety members of the Korean Air Force arrived Wednesday afternoon for a two-night stay on island. According to the Korean Association of Saipan, they will be holding a ceremony at the Korean monument in Marpi at 8:30am this morning.

On Wednesday, they were greeted by association president Kim Hong Kyun and other Korean Association officials as the nearly 100 women and men decked out in full-uniform streamed out of the Saipan International Airport departure gate and on to a waiting bus.

Association members presented ranking officials with leis to give them a taste of island life. A welcoming party at Fiesta Resort and Spa followed at 6:30pm.

In other association news, a business forum will be hosted this Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Saipan World Resort's Lilac Room starting at 3pm. About 50 to 60 businessmen and women from the community are expected to join but other members of the Korean community are invited as well. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

BOE must go back to Legislature for teacher rep designation

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI State Board of Education would like Gov. Eloy S. Inos to appoint the years-vacant teacher representative position via executive order, but the governor has deferred to the attorney general's opinion, which says the process for selecting the representative must be established by law before he or she could be validly appointed.

"Any appointment made prior to the passage of such law would not be valid. Accordingly, I cannot appoint a teacher representative at this time," Inos told board chair Herman T. Guerrero in a Nov. 25 letter.

The process for which a teacher rep is selected may be the hurdle BOE faces in getting the position filled. In earlier letters to the governor, Guerrero wrote that it has been an "ongoing struggle to motivate the Legislature to act in a coherent matter."

BOE and the Public School System have pushed that the CNMI Teacher of the Year be appointed teacher rep. However, as reported earlier, the Legislature has recommended that an election be held among teachers to determine their representative on the board.

The board has rejected this recommendation. Earlier, the board drafted an executive order for the governor that would create a system where the governor would appoint the teacher selected by his or her colleagues as 'Teacher of the Year" as the non-voting teacher representative on the board.

The teacher rep would serve a one-year term, according to the order.

However, Attorney General Gilbert Birnbrich found that the Constitution requires that law provide the process. Because of this, the appointment of the public school teacher representative "is not self-executing," and Inos cannot validly appoint a teacher rep.

Guerrero reported the opinion to the board at their meeting on Wednesday. He said they would "just have to wait 'til the new Legislature" next year to continue their efforts to get a teacher rep designated.

There has been no teacher representative on the board since January 2008.

In 2009, the CNMI Constitution was amended to have the process of establishing a selection process for teacher representative be the responsibility of the Legislature.

Man arrested for allegedly punching wife

A man allegedly punched his common-law wife on the mouth and thigh at their home in San Antonio Sunday morning for refusing to give him money so he could buy methamphetamine or "ice."

The victim was holding their infant son when Helimar Santiago allegedly did the punching. One punch caused the victim's thigh to hit the baby's mouth, police said.

When a police officer responded, the victim, who was carrying the baby, was crying and she had bloodstains on her lip. The officer observed that the baby was also bruised in the mouth and head.

Santiago, 29, was arrested on Wednesday night for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and child abuse or neglect.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo set a $25,000 cash bail and appointed the Public Defender's Office as counsel for the suspect.

Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 18 at 9am.

Police detective Romeo Francisco Iginoef stated in his report that a police officer responded to the San Antonio basketball court on Sunday at 11:22am after the victim called for police's assistance.

The victim told police that Santiago became angry after she told him not to return home anymore if he is going to keep smoking "ice." Santiago told the wife to shut up and threatened to punch her in the mouth. When their infant child began crying, Santiago got irritated and flicked the baby's head and mouth with his finger.

Santiago then asked the wife to give him money but she refused because she knew he would only use it to buy "ice." Santiago punched her mouth, causing it to bleed. He again punched her on the thigh. The thigh hit the baby's mouth.

The wife then left the house to go to church, bringing their child with her. Before they left the house, Santiago allegedly threatened to beat her up again when she returns from church. That's when the wife decided to call the police.

Last March, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho acquitted Santiago of all charges in connection with the alleged beating of his common-law wife and one of their four children. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BW CAR RENTAL
NEW LOCATION
in GARAPAN, SUNLEADER BLDG.
Special Rate $100.00 for 3 days.
FREE Pick up and Drop off Service
287-2727
Mon. - Sun. • 9AM-9PM

Give a Gift.
Get a Gift.
FREE 40oz fountain drink
when you load or reload $20 on any Subway® Card.
FREE regular 6-inch sub
when you load or reload $30 on any Subway® Card.
Subway® restaurants proudly feature Coca-Cola and Honolulu products.
GUAM LOCATIONS:
AAFB Exchange
Agana Shopping Center
Agat
Barrigada
Barrigada Heights Mobil
Dededo Shell Station
Guam Premier Outlets
Mangilao
Micronesia Mall
NEXCOM BLDG #20
NEXCOM Bldg #258
Tamuning
Tumon
Yigo Shell Station
SAIPAN LOCATIONS:
Gualo Rai
Chalan Piao
Paseo de Marianas, Garapan
©2014 Doctor's Associates Inc. SUBWAY® is a registered trademark of Doctor's Associates Inc.
*Not Valid with any other offer. Valid at participating Subway® Restaurants on Guam and Saipan. The offer may only be availed once but may be combined (ie. a $50 load will get a drink and a sub). Regular 6-inch sub sandwich does not include double-stacked or Premium subs or any add-on items such as bacon. No Cash Value. Limited time only. Offer valid until December 31, 2014.
SUBWAY 25 Years in the Marianas
www.subwaypacific.com

EXPRESS FINANCIAL
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road,
San Jose, Village
Phone: (670) 235-6032
Fax: (670) 235-6040
Express Financial is a division of CAR Financial Services
FAST Holiday Cash
$1,000, $3,000, $5,000,
OR MORE UPON REQUEST
It takes just minutes to apply. Simply call our office, email or fax the loan request form below. In most cases we will have an answer for you the same day. If you are approved, you can stop by to pick up your check when its convenient.
Fill out the application below, scan and email to cccar6985users@carfinancial.com OR fax the application to 670-235-6040 and a friendly member of our sales team will call you.
Primary Applicant
First Name: _____ M.I. ___ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____ Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: _____ _____
Best Time To Call Best Number To Call
Secondary Applicant
First Name: _____ M.I. ___ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____ Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: _____ _____
Best Time To Call Best Number To Call
Mailing Address: Street/Box _____ Village _____ Zip Code _____

Defendant seeks 8-hour release to attend dad's funeral

Daniel A. Castro, who is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to distribution of methamphetamine or "ice," asked the federal court yesterday to allow him to be released for eight hours today, Friday, so he could attend his father's funeral.

The U.S. government opposed the request. Assistant U.S. attorney Ross K. Naughton said the relief that Castro seeks "is, unfortunately, not possible under the law."

When *Saipan Tribune* left federal court yesterday afternoon, there was no decision yet on the request.

Attorney Timothy H. Bellas, counsel for Castro, filed an expedited motion for temporary release, requesting the court for his client to be released for eight hours today, Friday, at 9am, and for Castro to self-surrender at 3pm that same day.

Bellas said the defendant's father passed away last Friday, Dec. 5, and the funeral will be today.

Bellas said the U.S. Marshal opined that the most practical way to allow Castro to participate in the funeral was temporary release.

He said that being escorted by the U.S. Marshal Service would involve much more complicated arrangements and would not allow Castro to attend the funeral but only to view the body at an undisclosed location.

Bellas said the motion merely requests a few hours of temporary release for a very culturally significant and humanitarian purpose.

Last April, Castro signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government and pleaded guilty to distribution of methamphetamine.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, on May 29, 2013 on Saipan, Castro sold .60 grams of "ice" for $400 to a confidential source at the parking lot of the Royal Poker arcade in San Antonio. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FOA presents 3 evenings of Christmas music and joy

This weekend, Dec. 12, 13 and 14, the Friends of the Arts will be presenting the first program of its 2015 season, *A Glee-Full Christmas Revue*. This event will provide an evening of Christmas music performed by the award winning Rhythm 'N Harmony, the Marianas High School Glee Club, directed by Paul Dujua, FOA vice president, and co-produced by Susan Fishman-Tudor, FOA president, and Vivien Viernes, a member of the FOA board of directors.

The program's three performances on Dec. 12, 13 and 14 will all start at 7pm. All three shows will be performed at the Marianas High School's Dolphin Theatre.

Tickets will be sold at the door. The entrance fee will be $5 for all student Thespian members, $8 for students up through college, $12 for FOA members and $15 for non-FOA members. All MHS students will be offered the $5 ticket price and all MHS staff will be offered the $12 member rate. Season tickets are still available at $40 for FOA members by contacting Frank Gibson, FOA treasurer, at flgibson@yahoo.com or by calling 287-7476. ***(FOA)***

FOOD

From Page 1

"Although the economy is improving, there are still many families who need help getting enough to eat," said Inos. "I want to make sure we give those families all the help we can; in this case, the maximum increase in benefits possible."

In November, just over 8,000 people benefited from the food stamp program, of which about 7,500 are children, elderly or disabled, or a parent who provides in-home care.

"This is certainly a much welcomed development for many families and individuals on Saipan following the previous increase in benefits on Tinian, the Northern Islands and Rota," added Inos. "With the holiday season upon us, I'm sure that this increase will give Saipan recipients every reason to look forward to the new year."

Federal funding for the Nutrition Assistance Program has been on the rise since 2009. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan set the goal of equal treatment for needy families in the Commonwealth when he was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In April that year, four months on the job, he was able to convince Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to increase the food assistance grant to the Commonwealth by 13 percent, and later boosted the annual grant to the current $12.148 million.

During his term as lieutenant governor, Inos consistently supported increased federal food aid and worked closely with Sablan to push for greater benefits.

At the same time, the number of people in need of assistance has gradually fallen, resulting in leftover funds.

Since becoming governor, Inos, working together with Sablan, has been directing that excess funds be used to provide more benefits to those in need. DCCA is also using some of the money to improve administrative procedures and technology in preparation for a possible conversion of the local NAP grant to full participation in the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

ELECTION

From Page 1

In a nine-page order, Naraja ruled that in light of the evidence obtained at the recount, Dela Cruz's remaining claims do not satisfy the actual prejudice requirement and the complaint must be dismissed.

Naraja said Dela Cruz's remaining claims only challenge seven votes in total and even if these seven votes were determined to be invalid, it would not be enough to overcome San Nicolas' nine-vote lead after the recount.

At a news briefing yesterday afternoon, San Nicolas said he was very happy to hear from his counsels, Matthew Gregory and Viola Alepuyo, that Naraja had ruled in favor of their motion to dismiss.

San Nicolas expressed his appreciation to the court, its staff, court marshals, Commonwealth Election Commission and staff, the Department of Public Safety, and friends and supporters of both sides who showed up during the recounting of votes and hearings in this case.

San Nicolas said CEC board chair Frances Sablan and the staff "did a good job."

"I always have respect for the Election Commission but I have so much now. They are very professional. Their interest is to do what is right and I saw that," the former attorney general said.

Gregory said the remaining elements of Dela Cruz's claims were dismissed and the court found not enough evidence to show that violations occurred and no evidence of prejudice.

"By prejudice the court means that no matter what the individual's alleging in the complaint, that it would not change the election," he said.

Alepuyo said San Nicolas can now move forward in what needs to be done with regard to his transition and as well as his plans for the transition.

Tinian Sen. Frank Cruz joined San Nicolas and his counsel at the news briefing held at the lawyers' conference room.

In a statement, Dela Cruz said he is very disappointed with the court's ruling, but that they simply don't have the money to carry the issue to the CNMI Supreme Court.

"Nevertheless, I am a firm believer in the democratic process. I must and will accept the decision of the Superior Court," said the mayor.

Dela Cruz said he hopes the Legislature will take a look at not only the CNMI election law but also the regulations governing how the Commonwealth Election Commission manages an election.

Dela Cruz said the deficiencies and fraud in the election process that they identified in this case are not limited to Tinian.

He said Tinian is in good condition and much better than what he inherited.

"The mayor-elect will take the reins of a government that is already moving forward and we will do what is necessary to provide for a smooth transition so that he can maintain the pace we have set," Dela Cruz added.

At the court-ordered recounting of votes at the Tinian Superior Court last Dec. 1, San Nicolas still prevailed over Dela Cruz, this time by nine votes, 705-696.

San Nicolas of the Republican Party first won by seven votes, 703-696, over Dela Cruz (Independent) during the first counting of votes. CEC has already certified that initial result.

In his lawsuit, Dela Cruz alleged several irregularities during the Nov. 4 election, including a discrepancy between the votes cast for Tinian mayor tabulated on Tinian and the tabulation on Saipan of the votes physically cast on Tinian for Tinian mayor. He also alleged that seven votes were cast by those serving sentences for a felony.

CEC, through Chief Prosecutor Brian Flaherty, filed a motion to dismiss asserting that CEC is an improper defendant under the current election contest statutes.

Flaherty also asserted that the complaint should be dismissed because Dela Cruz waived his right to challenge voter qualification after the election and that the mayor's complaint fails to set forth the actual prejudice requirement necessary under the law.

Last Nov. 24, Naraja ruled that Dela Cruz set forth enough facts in his complaint to satisfy the actual prejudice requirement entitling him to a recount.

San Nicolas, through counsel Gregory and Alepuyo, partially joined CEC's motion to dismiss and also filed his own motion to dismiss asserting that dismissal of the felony voter claim is appropriate due to lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

Following the filings of the motions to dismiss, the first stage of the recount was conducted on Dec. 1 on Tinian. The recount showed that Dela Cruz garnered 696 votes, San Nicolas got 705, while David Cing received 47.

The second part of the recount, which was held last Dec. 3, CEC recounted and inventoried the total number of ballots used during the election. CEC commissioners also accounted for and performed a reconciliation of the absentee voter registration procedures.

Following the second part of the recount, CEC and San Nicolas renewed their motions to dismiss, arguing that Dela Cruz's remaining claims were either resolved by the recount or failed to satisfy the actual prejudice requirement under the statute.

In his order yesterday, Naraja said Dela Cruz failed to challenge seven felony voters prior to election day and now seeks to challenge them after the time allowed by law.

Naraja said the Legislature specifically provided a detailed rubric in which to bring a challenge, and Dela Cruz failed to follow the procedure.

The judge said that in failing to first exhaust his administrative remedies, Dela Cruz may not now bring this claim as part of an election contest.

"Therefore, dismissal of plaintiff's claim based upon the impropriety of seven felony voters participating in the mayoral election is proper because this court lacks subject matter jurisdiction to hear the claim," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PETE A

From Page 1

also offered the 99.005-square-meter area to South Korean company E-Land.

Naftan Point is the southern tip of Saipan and is relatively close to the Coral Ocean Point golf course.

Tenorio said he recently met with local executives of Hong Kong-based Best Sunshine to discuss the land leases it's eyeing and other pertinent matters.

"We talked about progress we've made so far and what we're going to do next to make sure we're moving ahead," he said.

Best Sunshine is planning to construct 4,200 hotel rooms and 300 villas on the island. The plan also involves the construction of a 600-seat theater, a 10,000-square-meter casino floor, 10,000-square-meter retail area, over 20 F&B outlets, and a theme park.

The company's multi-billion dollar developments on Saipan are expected to employ as much as 9,000 people for the project, up from the original estimates of 5,000.

HOCOG

From Page 1

ership also revolves around the three islands. The last two Senate presidents were senator-elect and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider from Tinian and lieutenant governor-elect and Senate President Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan) from Saipan.

Hocog said he looks forward to a good working relationship with the incoming administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Torres.

"I also want to work closely with the governor and make sure to address the CNMI's most compelling problems and ensure that we meet problems before us as expediently as possible."

Aside from the Senate president, the incoming leadership of the upper house also chose Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian) as vice president, senator-elect Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) as Senate secretary, and senator-elect Arnold Palacios of Saipan as floor leader and chairman of the Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies.

Jude U. Hofshneider, meanwhile, will chair the committees on Rules and Procedure and Fiscal Affairs, while Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) will continue to chair the Committee on Executive Appointments & Government Investigations.

Senator-elect Steven K. Mesngon of Rota will chair the Committee on Judicial, Government, and Law, while Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) will chair the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications.

Senator-elect Justo Quitigua of Saipan will serve as chairman of the Committee on Education and Youth Affairs, while Borja and Santos will head the committees on Resources and Economic Development and Programs and Health and Welfare, respectively.

Asked what his main focus would be as he ascends the leadership of the Senate, Hocog said he wants Senate members to look into the problems besetting the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"I want us to focus on lowering the power rates and look at alternatives that we can do. If renewable energy is still difficult to attain in giving people a lower rate, then we should see if we could return to fossil fuel or heavy fuel oil."

Hocog also said he would like the Senate to help CUC address stipulated orders and make sure retirees continue to receive 100 percent of their pension.

This will be Hocog's first term in the Senate. Prior to that, the Rota lawmaker served in the House of Representatives for three terms.

FEASIBILITY

From Page 2

preference for Saipan.

The divert airfield will be used as an alternative airbase in case Andersen Air Force Base in neighboring Guam is rendered inoperable due to attack, bad weather, or other factors.

The military service is eyeing to spend some $29 million in divert activity funds on Saipan.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for its part, declared the DEIS "insufficient," citing noise impacts on Saipan residents as severe. The agency felt this was inconsistent with directives requiring hearing loss risk to be properly estimated.

Man accused of beating son is found not guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A tour boat mechanic accused of beating up his 14-year-old son with *tangan tangan* wood and choking and kicking him was acquitted of all charges in Superior Court yesterday.

After deliberating for less than two hours, the six jurors reached a unanimous verdict, finding 39-year-old Jesse Billy Mailuw Jr. not guilty of child abuse.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who decided the misdemeanor charge, also found Mailuw not guilty of disturbing the peace.

After hearing the verdicts, Mailuw hugged his lawyers, assistant public defenders Eden Schwartz and Matthew Meyer.

Camacho said the government did not prove the crime of disturbing the peace beyond reasonable doubt.

"The law is very clear. A parent is allowed to spank a child for purposes of discipline as long as it is reasonable and in line with traditional and community standards," the judge said.

Camacho found all of the prosecution's six witnesses credible but pointed out that it is a strange situation when all of six prosecution witnesses, including two police officers, proved the case in favor of the defendant.

Mailuw did not call any witness.

Camacho said all the eyewitnesses had testified that Mailuw was disciplining his son.

Camacho said that piecing together the testimony of all witnesses, Mailuw works on a tour boat to support his wife and eight children.

"Mailuw and his wife hope that all their children do well in school and one day graduate from college," he said.

The judge said the oldest son, the alleged victim in this case, has for the past year been a source of serious concern for his parents and siblings.

From his own words under oath, the alleged victim admitted that he has gotten into numerous fights, beaten and bullied two classmates who have physical disabilities, does not come home after school and sometimes stays out until the next day, and hangs out with older people who have criminal records for burglary and theft.

Camacho said the boy also admits that he has stolen things, drank alcohol, smoked marijuana, that he punched his younger sister in the mouth, has been suspended from school several times, disrespects his mother, and does not do house chores.

The judge said the boy agrees that his father repeatedly encouraged him to change, that his father loves him, that his father wants him to stay in school and not end up in prison.

Camacho said Mailuw found his son still hanging around with "bad friends" despite his instructions to go home and stay away from these people.

Camacho said that after a year of lecturing and talking to his son, Mailuw decided to use spanking to correct his son's behavior.

Camacho said Mailuw never shouted or yelled, and used a two-foot branch to hit the son's hands for stealing and fighting. Mailuw also hit the boy's lower legs for breaking curfew and sneaking out of the house.

"There were a total of seven hits. No broken bone, open wounds. Only red marks on the skin that in a day or two will fade away," Camacho noted.

Mailuw later told reporters he is very happy with his acquittal and thankful to his lawyers. He said the case has been very difficult for him because he was detained for two months and been away from his family for seven months.

"I'm just waiting for their approval for me to get back to my family and start all over again," he said.

Schwartz said they're very grateful to the jury for coming up with the right verdict.

"We're also grateful to Mailuw's family. His son is really a good kid…and just needs some guidance," she said.

Assistant attorney general Clayton Graef refused to comment after the hearing. Assistant attorney general Shannon Folley assisted him at the trial.

In the government's closing arguments, Graef said no one is disputing that the boy misbehaved and that there is a parental discipline privilege. Such privilege, however, has a limit—it has to be reasonable, Graef said.

Graef said what Mailuw did was not reasonable as the beating prompted an ambulance to take the boy for treatment of injuries.

In Mailuw's closing arguments, Schwartz said it is a cultural standard in Chuukese culture that spanking is necessary to discipline misbehaving children. Citing the boy's extensive misbehavior in school and at the house, Schwartz said Mailuw was disciplining him "because he's too much."

Jury selection was done on Tuesday. The government started calling in witnesses on Wednesday.

Police arrested Mailuw shortly after he allegedly beat up his son at their house in Koblerville on May 19, 2014.

Mailuw is the same person who was allegedly stabbed with a knife by Manuel Daniel Sablan Jr. after witnessing Sablan slashing the tires of a vehicle that was parked outside True North Bar & Grill in Garapan last September.

LINDEXUAN RESTAURANT
Chinese Food
Special Promo
(Wedding, Birthday, Christening etc.)
$7.99 per person
Try our All Day Specials
for only $5.00
with Rice, Soup and Iced Tea or Hot Tea
(Take-out order available)
Monday - Sunday
Lunch: 10:30am-2:00pm • Dinner: 5:30pm-9:30pm
Catering Now Available
Call 233-6666

Happy Massage
$20.00 1 hour Full Body with FREE Foot Bath
$20.00 1 hour Face Massage
Business Hours:
1:00PM - 2:00AM
Call: 989-6858
Located at Garapan, Behind Tony Romas

Amigo's
Pizza & B.B.Q.
DECEMBER TREATS
2 Large Pizza (three toppings) $32.99
2 Medium Pizza (three toppings) $25.99
ALSO TRY OUR FAMOUS
BBQ Set & Pasta
Lunch Special available from $7.50
OPEN DAILY: Lunch 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Dinner 5:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Tel. No. 233-7412

FREE!* ROKU
THE EASIEST WAY TO STREAM ON TV. WITHOUT A PC.
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS ONLY
FREE FOR NEW DSL SIGN UP
CRANK UP THE VOLUME, AND ENJOY THE SHOW WITH THE ROKU 2. DIVE INTO 1,000+ CHANNELS OF MOVIES, TV SHOWS, SPORTS AND MORE IN STUNNING 1080P HD. WATCH WITHOUT DISTURBING THE HOUSE WHEN YOU PLUG HEADPHONES INTO THE REMOTE. ENJOY FREE FEATURES LIKE CHANNEL SHORTCUT BUTTONS AND MUCH MORE.
$59 UPGRADE TO EXTREME DSL
$89 UPGRADE TO PREMIUM DSL
$99 UPGRADE TO ADVANTAGE DSL
*Some conditions apply. While supplies last.
CALL
Saipan 682-4ITE (4483)
Tinian 433-0210
Rota 532-3599
IT&E CNMI www.ite.net
VISIT
Chalan LauLau
Wireless Express Center - TSL Building
IT&E

Resort helps clear tall grass at DPS compound in Marpi

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Resort and Spa recently gave the Department of Public Safety an early Christmas gift by clearing large tall grasses at the department's new compound in Marpi.

According to Mariana Resort general manager Gloria Cavanagh, one of their maintenance staff, Santiago Mettao, cleared the tall grasses using Mariana Resort's tractor.

» DPS sets grand opening of new compound in mid-January

"Santiago did it for two days, first on Monday and he finished on Tuesday. This happened this week," Cavanagh said.

DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero said they are grateful to Marianas Resort for providing the equipment and service.

"This is part of the preliminary step in trying to bring this place in order. We hope to be able to do an actual grand opening. We are grateful that Mariana Resort had provided the manpower and services," he said.

As a show of its appreciation, DPS presented Mariana Resort with certificates of appreciation.

Cavanagh said they aren't finished yet and that they will be returning next week to clear the area of more grass.

"There are still more grasses that are squashed under the piles of other large grasses, so our staff will be returning next week to stage it all out and clear the grasses better," Cavanagh said.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Mariana Resort and Spa cleared large tall grass or *sakati* at the Department of Public Safety's newest facility in Marpi. In response, DPS held a small lunch and gave certificates of appreciation to Mariana Resort staff. From left to right: DPS officer Jack Camacho, Mariana Resort maintenance staff Santiago Mettao, Mariana Resort general manager Gloria Cavanagh, DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, Mariana Resort operations manager Lito Parulan, and DPS acting director Pete Leon Guerrero.

The new DPS compound is located at the Far East Compound in Marpi, where there are seven residential units and three main buildings. DPS will be using all nine buildings in the near future and eyes a grand opening in mid-January.

"Right now we're kind of in the transition phase since the handover from the Department of Public Lands to DPS and we are in the process of moving people here as we go along and hope to have everyone up here by mid-January," Deleon Guerrero said.

DPS acting director Pete Leon Guerrero said they would be using the compound as their tactical, intelligence, crime, and emergency headquarters. This is because they want to combine all law enforcement entities in "one house," he added.

Deleon Guerrero said it would also be a temporary emergency operations center.

"The primary focus of this facility is to establish a CNMI law enforcement and training center," he said.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CYCLING FEDERATION
HELL OF THE MARIANAS
Century Cycle
DFS
Miller Lite
GATORADE
A heartfelt, Thank You to all our generous sponsors, volunteers, support agencies and the international field of participants in making the
8th Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle
a successful event! We are humbled by your outpouring of support!
PLATINUM SPONSORS
Tan Holdings
HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN
Mariana Resort & Spa
POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN
Hertz
30 THIRTY YEARS TRIPLE J Customers First
GOLD SPONSORS
DELTA SKY TEAM
Island Trading Solutions
IT&E Life in Motion
GOLD'S GYM
SILVER SPONSORS
TSC TARO SUE CORP.
D&Q International Distributors A TanHoldings Company
Cape Air
CHONG'S CORPORATION
SEAFIX INCORPORATED
BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC
BRONZE SPONSORS
LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT
STAND UP PADDLE SAIPAN
RIDE NMI Bike & Accessories Shop SAIPAN
SAIPAN BIKE PRO
SUPPORT AGENCIES: MVA, Parks & Recreation, DPS, DPW, CHC

Architect: Crematorium is safe

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The crematory services that Borja Funeral Home is proposing to operate in the Chalan Kanoa area "is safe for the village and is very compatible" with zoning law, according to Saipan architect Herman Cabrera.

"It is zoned as village commercial and surrounded by hotels, stores and village houses. The proposed location of the Borja Funeral Home is now legally a village commercial due to Saipan Local Law 18-20," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday at his office in Garapan.

Cabrera said the funeral home will be about 300 to 400 feet south of Mt. Carmel Cathedral and close to both the Daidai Social Hall and the cemetery so the compatibility for the crematory services to be in that location is very good.

Cabrera also pointed out that the building where the crematorium will be located has 8-inch thick walls and is a Type 1 fire resistant building.

"All activities will be kept inside the concrete building. Noise decibel is very low and almost zero. Noise will not affect the outside environment," Cabrera said. "The building meets all required building codes and it is in line with the Saipan Zoning Law's parking stalls."

He also assured that no harmful substances will be emitted once the crematorium starts operating.

The machine that Borja Funeral Home proposes to use is a thermal dynamic machine, which Cabrera said can burn and evaporate during cremation and will not emit any harmful substances.

"There are already those regulatory bodies here on Saipan and they are the ones to determine whether it is safe or not, but all in all it cannot be a harm to the community in CK because there are a lot of crematoriums elsewhere among residential areas," Cabrera said.

The Saipan Zoning board pushed the crematory services application for further discussions and review at a later date.

HHS grants improve learning opportunities for young kids

HHS's Administration for Children and Families announced yesterday the preliminary winners for its Early Head Start–Child Care Partnerships grants to improve the quality of existing child care programs and expand access to high-quality care for infants and toddlers.

Thus far, 234 preliminarily selected grant applicants in 49 states; Washington, D.C.; Puerto Rico; and the Northern Mariana Islands will receive over $435 million in funding to help offer care and services to ensure that infants and toddlers have access to Early Head Start services in their communities.

"As the mother of young kids, early learning is a big part of my personal life," said Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. "We're awarding over $435 million in 234 different grants to help ensure more children across the nation will benefit from high-quality early childhood efforts. As a result, we expect that more than 30,000 additional children will be able to access Early Head Start, about a 25-percent increase in the size of this program. That's a lot of young lives changed. And a lot of impact delivered."

"Research shows the first three years are critical for brain development, and Early Head Start provides high-quality early care and learning opportunities for our most vulnerable young children," said ACF Acting Assistant Secretary Mark Greenberg. "These grants will help support working families by providing a full-day, full-year program for young children."

ACF developed the grants to encourage collaboration between new or existing Early Head Start grantees and child care providers. They will serve children and families in a variety of settings, including family child care homes, child care centers, and traditional Early Head Start centers in both rural and metropolitan areas across the country.

"We are pleased to partner with communities from all over the country to expand high-quality early learning opportunities for children who need it most. By providing the fundamental services young children need, we will improve their chances to reach their full potential," said ACF Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development Linda Smith.

President Obama first mentioned the Early Head Start–Child Care Partnership program in his 2013 State of the Union address, when he proposed a comprehensive plan to support high-quality early education for all children from birth through school age.

For the list of preliminary grantees, please visit the ACF website. ***(PR)***

CPUC extends RFP deadline for consulting services

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has pushed its deadline for a request for proposals seeking consulting services to next January, according to CPUC commissioner Dave Guerrero.

Guerrero said that four have submitted proposals but only three paid for the registering fee.

"One of the three is Georgetown Consulting Group," he said.

"We feel that it is in the best interest of the CNMI and the public to extend the deadline," he added.

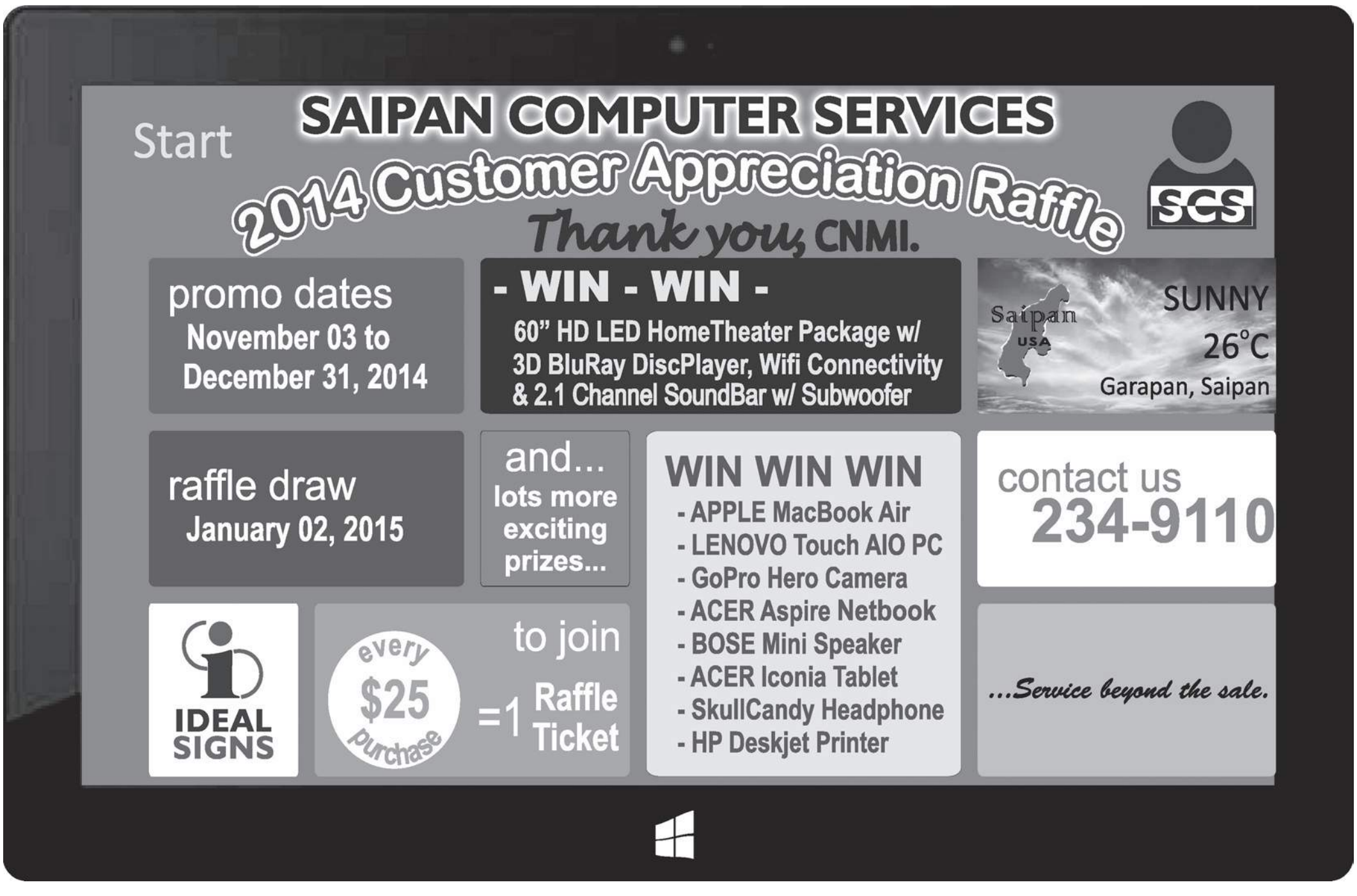
Georgetown's contract with CPUC expired in September this year.

Georgetown has been the CPUC's consultant since 2007 and has helped CPUC through numerous consulting services.

Guerrero said it is time for CPUC to have a new consultant but Georgetown has pretty much been doing great for the past several years.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher said they are interested in the matter because whoever becomes the consultant for CPUC will be working closely with CUC. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

SANTA AND HIS HELPERS ARE COMING TO T GALLERIA
SHARE THE HOLIDAY CHEER AND MAKE HOLIDAY MEMORIES BY TAKING PHOTOS WITH SANTA AND HIS HELPERS.
SANTA'S SCHEDULE
DECEMBER 12 – 14, & 18-25
7 PM – 10 PM
T GALLERIA
BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN MP 96950 | 1.670.233.6602 | 10:00 AM TO 11:000 PM | TGALLERIA.COM



Find that Asian aesthetic at Vietnam Home Gallery

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Loc Thi Vu has brought the home décor and furnishings of her home country, Vietnam, to a cozy little corner in Gualo Rai called the Vietnam Home Gallery, where you will find items that will give your home a hint of that Asian aesthetic.

Smell the roasting Vietnamese coffee when you walk in and ask for a cup. It'll be sure to add to the experience as you check out Vu's fine and delicate, high quality glazed pots, silk lanterns, and woodcarvings.

Her pots and vases come in deep-set colors, with live plants also available that Vu will be happy to pot for you. And to go with a wall of wood carved Buddhas and lions are delicate tea sets, tea holders, and coffee cups. Bamboo place mats are also available.

Her products are of the highest quality but come at reasonable prices, Vu says. You can join in the holidays' festive spirit today with the entertainment centers and stocking stuffers, silver necklaces and earrings that she offers.

ADVERTISING Feature

Her Vietnamese products are the perfect gift, small or big, for those people looking for a unique twist to their gift giving during Christmas.

On top of all this, Vu is a seamstress. Behind her store is a professional-grade sewing machine. Custom fit curtains and fabrics are available if a customer asks for them, she said. Customers can even supply her with their own fabrics. From this, she can make tablecloths, place mats, or curtains.

"Bring in anything and I can do it," she said.

Also, purchases can be brought to businesses or houses of patrons.

The Vietnam Home Gallery opened in June. After a trial sale of Vietnamese items at Brabu Pharmacy, Vu hopes the appeal carries over into a successful store.

She began her time on Saipan during the garment industry and can even add cleaning houses to her name. Now, she enjoys offering genuine slices of Vietnamese life with her home gallery.

All her items are shipped directly from vendors in Vietnam, and right now they are on 15-percent discount. So give it a try! Her store is located along Gualo Rai before the Quartermaster Road traffic light intersection heading south.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Vietnam Home Gallery sells, among other items, fine and delicate, high quality glazed pots.

COMPUTER ELECTRONICS OUTLET
LOWEST PRICES!
All Original! Brand New!
Christmas BIG Sale

Samsung Note $299
Samsung Note2 $390
Samsung Galaxy S5 $579
Samsung S4 $390
Samsung Tablet 3 - 7" $209
Samsung Galaxy Trend Duos 4" 4GB $169
Samsung S3 16GB $290
Samsung Note3 32GB $585
Lenovo 318T 4" 8GB $109
Unicom Tab82 7" 8GB $99

More models of cell phones and tablets available. Please visit us at our shop.
We sell computers, audio/video devices, speakers, cable & connections, miscellaneous computer accessories, cases of phone/tablets, phone batteries, led lights, surveillance system etc.
Every purchase of a phone get a FREE screen protector and case.
We repair computers, tablet, and cell phone. Diagnosis is FREE.
Across from Bank of Saipan (Garapan Branch) next to Family Bldg., Garapan
Open: 11:00 - 9:00PM • Tel.: (670) 233-6088

MAHAL to host free health screening on Sunday

In appreciation of unending support of the community and its people, the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs, Ltd (M.A.H.A.L) will be hosting its Community Health and Wellness Program for the last quarter of 2014, on Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014, at Filcom Pavillion in Susupe (right beside the basketball court), from 7:30am to 12pm.

This program is being held in collaboration with Dr. Jean Grant and team, Nurses Association and volunteers, Hardt Eye Clinic, St. Paul Espiscopal Church, NUTESE, and individual advocates.

Avail of these services for free: Consultation and referral for adults and children; hypertension check; diabetes screening; eye checkup and education on diabetes; flu vaccine; Pap smear; and mammogram.

Please do not eat a heavy breakfast. We'll prepare hot soup for everyone after the health screening and hot lunch for the first 100 persons thereafter. ***(MAHAL)***

TOHA SUPERMARKET
Holiday Sale

7:00AM-11:00 PM (MON-SUN)

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
WE ACCEPT BANK OF GUAM PACIFIC EXPRESS

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP

PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Calrose Rice $32.99 50lbs

King Chef Soybean Oil $30.99 5 Gal

Chicken Leg Quarter $17.99 22 lbs | $25.99 33 lbs

Whole Chicken $41.99 33lbs

Pork Spareribs $26.99 20lbs

Babyribs $21.99 10lbs

Ichiban $12.99 24pcs/1 case

Max Butane Gas $22.99 CASE

GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES | GROCERIES

Country Lime Lemonade, Tang Orange, Kool-Aid $8.99

Coffee Mate $7.99 50 OZ.

Folgers Coffee $11.99 33.3 OZ.

Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn $1.09 15 OZ.

Spam All Kinds $2.39 EA LIMIT 6

Black Label Luncheon $1.79 EA. LIMIT 6

Hormel Corned Beef $3.19 5OZ.

Ox & Palm Corned Beef Buy 6 pcs Get one Anchor Milk FREE $3.29

Kimchee Base $5.99 15.87OZ.

Campbells Chicken Noodle 99¢ 10 OZ.

Best Buy Bacon $3.49 16 OZ.

Del Monte Ketchup $4.69 64 OZ.

White Sugar $2.79 2 KG.

Fresco Vegetable Oil $9.99 1 Gal.

Dragon Vegetable Oil $9.49 1GAL.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce $4.69 1.6 L.

Tabasco $6.49 12FL.OZ.

Yours Lemon Powder $5.99 5.29OZ.

Saipan Ice Water $6.99 350ML.

FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN |FROZEN

Tilapia $1.25 per lb.

Milk Fish $1.89 per lb.

Bar S Jumbo Franks $1.35

Gusto Cooked Ham $21.99 10 lbs

Ground Beef $15.99 5LBS.

Chamorro Sausage $4.99

Vega Shrimp $7.49 21/25

PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE

Onion 79¢ per lb.

Potato 99¢ per lb.

Garlic 99¢ per bag

U.S. X-Large Eggs $2.49 Dozen

Celo Apple $1.69 LB.

Orange $1.29 LB.

Honeydew/ Cantaloupe $1.29 per lb.

Korean Pear $2.99 per lb.

| FAMILY BAG | FAMILY BAG | FAMILY BAG |

Stewing Chicken	$6.99	Pork Chop	$11.99
Chicken Leg Qtr	$4.99	Pork Spareribs	$6.99
Chicken Nuggets	$11.99	Pork Butt Steak	$9.99
Chicken Wings	$12.99	Beef Ribeye	$15.99
Turkey Tail	$6.99	Beef Stew	$12.99
Mackerel Fish	$5.99	Beef Shank	$12.99
Mackerel Pike	$6.49	Beef Feet	$4.99
Pork Hock	$7.99	Beef Shortribs	$19.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99	Ox Tail	$15.99
Pork Bellies	$11.99	Smoked Ham Steak	$12.99

NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD

Safeguard Soap 89¢

Joy Ultra $1.49 12.5 oz $6.99 90 oz

Dawn Dishwashing Liquid $6.99 56 oz

Purex $4.29 50 OZ.

Gain Liquid $4.99 50 oz $9.99 100 oz

Gain Powder $15.99 102 Loads $18.99 120 Loads

Head & Shoulders *All Kinds* $5.49 230Z. $7.99 *Shampoo*

Bounty Paper Towel $20.99 15 Rolls

Charmin Basic Toilet Paper $7.99 12ROLLS $14.99 24ROLLS

Kordie Foam Plates $5.99 150 CT

Charmin Tissue (Regular) $7.99 24 Rolls

Located in San Antonio Tel. No. 234-0826

With The LOWEST Prices on Island!

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIV, Issue No. 247

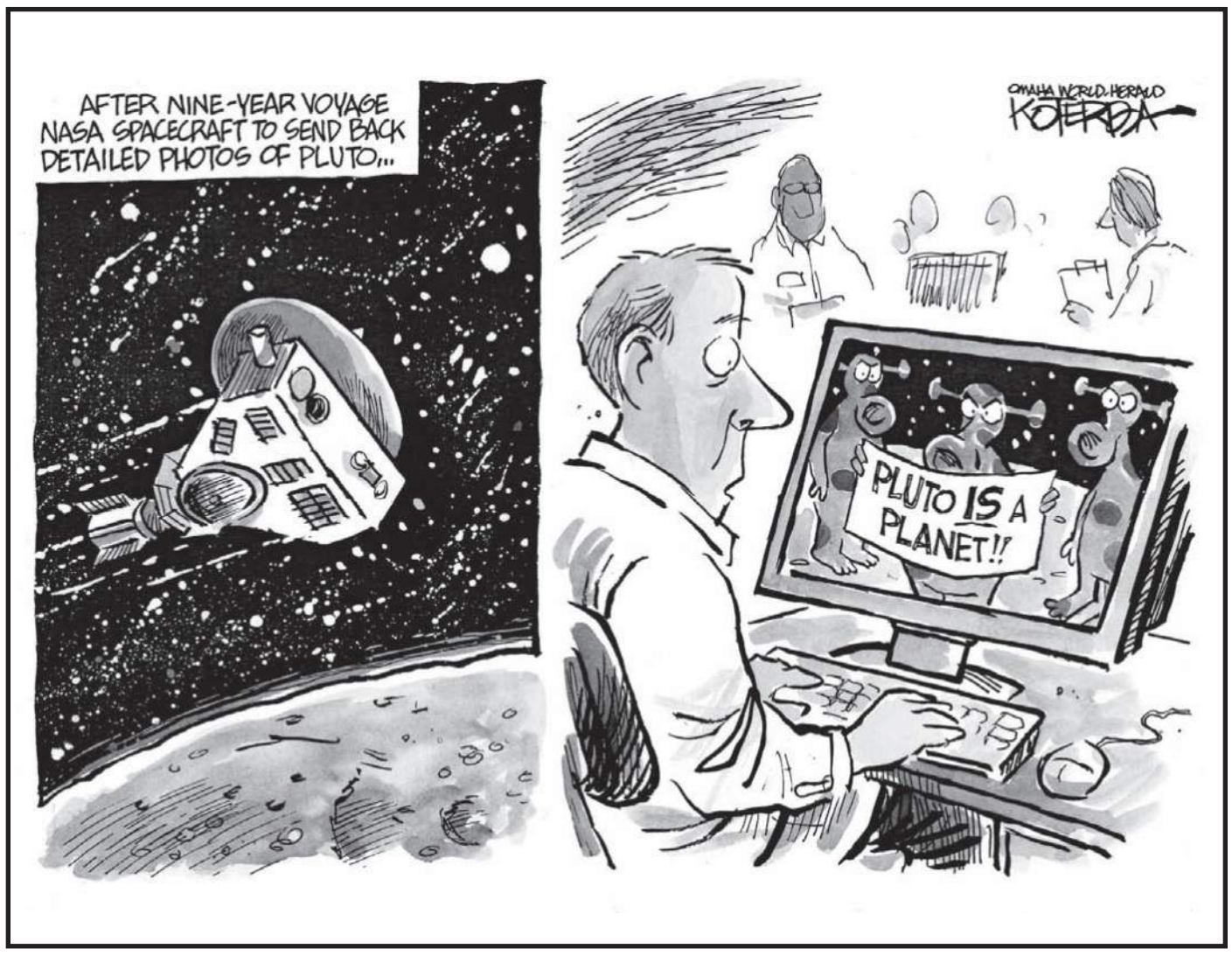
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press — Pacific Islands News Association


AFTER NINE-YEAR VOYAGE NASA SPACECRAFT TO SEND BACK DETAILED PHOTOS OF PLUTO...
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA
PLUTO IS A PLANET!!

EDITORIAL

Gas prices are down. Let's investigate!

When gas prices soar, Americans wail. Inevitably Congress launches an "investigation" and discovers—over and over again—that by and large prices are the result of market conditions and taxes.

But when prices drop sharply at the pump, as they have lately, consumers cheer, use more gas and have no interest in finding out the reasons. Let's take a look anyway. Maybe it'll save some "investigating" next time the pendulum swings.

First, this is not an American phenomenon. Oil prices are diving all over the world, and the reason is, as usual, global.

West Texas Intermediate crude, a benchmark for American markets, is $68 a barrel, about 37 percent below the price last June. Brent crude, often watched on the world markets, is hovering around $70. It was $115 just last July. Good for consumers, bad for producers. And much as we would like to herald an alternative energy takeover, the world economy still hinges on the price of oil.

When prices are high, producing nations like Iran, Russia, Venezuela and Saudi Arabia rake in the money. However, when crude prices drop, those nations must retrench. Today's plunging price of crude has done far more to damage the economies of Russia and Iran than all the western economic sanctions combined. Venezuela also is in economic crisis.

Here's where it gets complicated.

One reason for the price drop has been a dramatic increase in production in the United States' shale oil drilling, often known as fracking. It's far more expensive than regular extraction, but it has grown to 4 million barrels a day, nearly half of U.S. production, increasing the world supply and lowering prices.

Ironically, the same shale oil drillers responsible for the supply spike are getting hit hardest by the falling prices. (Are you still with us?) That is why the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries), made up primarily of Middle East nations, recently decided not to decrease its production, even though its members are suffering from low prices. They are willing to accept the short-term pain because they hope low prices will drive the U.S. shale oil producers out of the market. If that happens, prices will soar again.

Higher prices are likely next year anyway; even wealthy nations don't like to sacrifice profits for long. And Californians are likely to see increases because starting in January, the state's cap and trade law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will apply to oil and gas products. This is not a tax, as the industry is claiming; but until producers reduce emissions, they will have to buy credits to keep polluting. They are likely to pass along some or all of the cost at the pump, depending again on the world market.

On the bright side, maybe we've saved taxpayers the cost of another duplicative investigation to figure out why prices will be going up.

(c) 2014 San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.)

Look up, Americans, it's not as bad as you think

By LEE H. HAMILTON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years. This column is an unsolicited and unpaid contribution by the author.

We are one glum country.

Trust in the federal government is at historic lows, according to Gallup. More than half of the respondents to an October Rasmussen poll think our best days are behind us. And just a few weeks ago, an NBC/Wall St. Journal poll found that the one thing Americans agree upon whatever their race or circumstances is that the system is stacked against people like them.

Scratch an American, it seems, and you'll get a litany of complaints about our representative democracy.

I see this defeatism all around me. When I speak to classes of university students, I almost always ask for a show of hands on whether these young people believe the U.S. is in decline or on the rise. Every time, the room is evenly split. That's a lot of people who are losing faith in our system.

So I have just one thing to say: Could we all take a deep breath?

For one thing, we deal with our challenges from a position of strength. We have friendly neighbors to the north and south, oceans to the east and west, and a growing, relatively young population. We possess abundant natural resources, the world's most capable military force, a nuclear arsenal second to none, and a deterrent power envied by every other country on earth. We face no existential threat from foreign powers. We can choose the role we want to play in the world.

We created the major mechanisms for world stability—the United Nations, World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank—and we still help maintain them. We lead the way in pressing for open markets and free trade. Our fundamentals—from our military to our technology to our system of higher education—remain strong. We're doing better economically than any other major industrialized nation, and have put more people back to work since the recovery began than the rest of the industrialized world combined. Does that sound like a once-great nation on its knees?

Our people possess strengths in abundance. We have a remarkable reservoir of talent both in the workforce and, to judge by the students I encounter every day, preparing to enter it. We're blessed with a strong entrepreneurial tradition that nurtures inventiveness and creativity, and that draws countless people from abroad eager to make something of their future. Though we're hardly perfect on this score, we have friends across the globe who genuinely admire our accomplishments.

I'm not blind to our shortcomings—if you read this column regularly, you know that—or to the severe challenges we confront. But in the face of extraordinary difficulties, we adapt, persevere, and eventually emerge stronger.

After decades of trying, we have begun to wean ourselves from foreign oil. Our response to the ebola crisis was initially halting and clumsy, but the federal government and the nation's hospitals reformed their protocols remarkably quickly for a set of complex institutions. It's taken a long time to put a coalition together to fight the Islamic State, but international coalitions are difficult to create, and by dint of hard work we're better off now than we were a year ago. In the end, government may act slowly, and it's often well behind where you'd wish it to be, but it does act.

All these things give our society a resilience to keep in mind the next time you see a news story or commentary hyping a pessimistic view of our future. The world around us is in turmoil, under enormous and even volcanic pressures that explode most every morning somewhere, yet we remain an island of stability. We may be disenchanted with our government, yet we've come out of the downturn stronger than any other country in the world—a testament not just to our private sector, but to the public policies that supported it.

> I'm not blind to our shortcomings. . . but in the face of extraordinary difficulties, we adapt, persevere, and eventually emerge stronger.

We have a long way to go, there's no doubt about it. But I'm reminded of a young woman a few years ago who asked me, after a bleak speech I'd given laying out the problems of the world, "Is there any hope?" My answer now is the same as it was then: Yes, of course there is.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bright, sunshiny thoughts

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

I almost ran the clock out on this one, but one of my goals for 2014 was to crunch some numbers for the modern breed of solar power installations. I wanted to get a sense of how feasible solar photovoltaic (PV) energy can be these days. I used to be a financial analyst in the energy industry, so I felt long overdue for a fresh look at this niche.

Solar energy has been around for a long time, but can we say that it has arrived?

Yes. It has arrived. Good things are going to happen.

Hey, I'm all for good times, so I'm going to mention some happy notions today in the solar power context. I'm not going to get technical here. In the spirit of the season I am deliberately looking at the optimistic side of the solar equation because I know it's a popular gig.

I will mention, though, that good data was hard to get. When it comes to data, having worked in the kitchen, I don't trust what's on the menu. So I had to find a way to get first-hand numbers for the sort of project I wanted to evaluate. It took most of the year to find my way to somebody sane and credible. I finally found a cooperative CPA who was willing to let me get an onsite look at a solar installation and its data. It was the right project, of the right scale, and in the right area. Yippee—it's about time! And I'm promised more data next year, after which I'll be able to really dig into things.

From the data I was able to gather thus far, I have to say, I'm impressed with PV. The new technology is far better than the old stuff.

It's not just the solar cells themselves that have improved. Other important elements in the equation, such as inverters, have evolved as well.

What we're seeing, then, is a one-hand-washes-the-other dynamic, as various elements in the equation make each other even more useful. This creates a virtuous cycle. Not that I know anything about virtue but I read about it once.

OK, now for some bright, sunshiny thoughts.

First of all, if you want to entertain notions about people driving electric cars and recharging them via solar power installations, well, that's a realistic expectation for the future, at least in certain situations in certain areas.

On that note, moving our focus from a power source (solar) to a thing being powered (the car), electric cars don't have to be glorified golf carts. The Tesla, for example, is a luxury car. They even have an electric SUV in the works.

Let's get off the highway and into paradise now. If you're building your tropical dream home in a place too remote to tie to a power grid, PV is getting more feasible all the time. "Feasible" doesn't mean "magical," of course, and no matter how good PV gets, solar power is still solar power with its own limitations and characteristics, so it's often combined with other sources of power to fill in the gaps.

Meanwhile, for most residential or business situations, that other source of power is, of course, the grid itself. This is where we'll be seeing the most action. By adding PV to the mix, consumers can use it to supplant some grid energy. This is common in some places nowadays, or at least it's common enough that it's not uncommon. In fact, in some places, consumers can sell their excess PV power to the utility via the grid, but the cases I've seen had pretty skinny prices for that. Depending on location, various government subsidies can be the deciding financial factor, so it further emphasizes that every case has to be evaluated on its own specific merits if someone wants to get a handle on the financial end of things.

And I'll note that, according to any data that I've seen over the years, PV is, on average, far more expensive than grid juice. But the critical thing to heed is that, again, it's the specifics of any given project that really matter. PV does make financial sense in some cases, and it doesn't make sense in other cases. So don't get distracted by averages: Would you buy a suit based on the dimensions of the "average" person? No; you'd want measurements for your specific case.

Well, this completes my random list of solar energy highlights. There's a lot to like in this realm.

Nov. 3rd: Marianas holiday?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

It's a daunting task sifting through the maze hoping to understand the "November Surprise" in the recent runoff election. Puzzling, though not surprising, the shift from doing what's right to surrendering to a miasma of bribery and political chicanery. After 36 years of self-government? Mind-boggling!

And we thought political chicanery only happens in Communist countries where dictators simply suffocate the multitude. Then they step forward and offer the masses something they can't refuse. Either they follow or they're dead! It's a dictatorial tool to bend the will of the people with impunity. Ours is the friendly 10 silvers ($10 million), though no less corrupt in form and substance.

I'm not convinced our people have given up personal dignity for cheap gratis. But it is a case of struggling for survival in the filthy swamp of poverty handed them by their elected officials. It's an unsolicited and a very humiliating trophy handed down by the elected elite (I refuse to use the term "leadership" for obvious reasons). It's nonexistent!

Other questions have also popped up: Would the gratis be generously provided annually hailing from the "community chest" of Best Sunshine International or is this a one-time deal? Could we park our utility bills until next November to await another Christmas drop from BSI?

Or do we replicate it by building our own bamboo reed airplane dropping *tangan tangan* leaves from upstairs (cargo cult mentality) in hopes it magically turn into another 10 silvers?

Sad that despite the best efforts of conscientious citizens to help the multitude on this score the tyranny of corruption was woefully difficult to overcome. Does it matter to them the citizens' efforts to forge a sure-footed collective future?

Is the wholesale of integrity the new way of electing public officials now? Is corruption the indigenous definition of self-government? Whatever happened to integrity or personal dignity?

Definitely the massive miscalculation is fodder for serious sniffing and eventual disposition by appropriate authorities or coffee shop talk for many moons to come. It's the corrupt exploitation of the innocent for pecuniary gain!

Perhaps we need to work harder resetting our buttons to force integrity into the cranium of the elected elite. Must insist on vision and leadership the requisite traits in fostering stronger governance under a government of laws.

The adolescent view that victorious "biba" defines leadership is completely misplaced. We must do better so we jolt the sleepy heads upstairs from falling asleep on the switchboard once more. Otherwise, declare Nov. 3rd another holiday in infamy!

Lack of information

It isn't surprising the lack of citizenry's understanding of national events or the history of our country and provincial issues.

Fox News interviewed folks (Watter's World) about the performance of the man in the White House. A guy quickly said he's doing an excellent job. Asked who's in the WH. He doesn't know. And he renders an ill-informed view?

Another was asked who's in the WH. He looks confused but chanced, "Nixon?" The guy must be from the most backward side of the Appalachian mountain! Nixon died years ago. Subsequently, there were other presidents before Mr. "Teleprompter."

On the islands, it isn't surprising either that most folks don't know the basic issues under the Covenant agreement or the concept of separation of powers we're supposed to have learned in high school civic courses. This setback is also pandemic across the country. So we're not alone.

Essence of culture

Self-righteous proponents of indigenous rights have use "culture" as a perfect backstop when pushing its scatter shot agenda. Curious, I asked some why support Article 12. The quick answer is "culture." I'd press further and the answer reverberates in nervous laughter as they circle the flagpole, searching embarrassingly for answers.

Apparently, folks use the term culture as a mouthwash just to sound hip. An understanding of it is missing by oceans apart. And I was like, "And you're mouthing off culture you can't even define?" Is it really about culture? Or isn't it more about "natural rights"?

I know my culture. I've lived it and still do to this day. It's that sturdy canoe that has weathered huge storms at sea. It stays the course and plows ahead into another bright new dawn. It is the canoe that has provided edification or the means and a way of life for our people since time immemorial.

But landownership remains individually owned up until 1978, violating my rights on personal property! Government owns our land under Article 12. Did you know this?

Get closer to home

In posh hotel conference rooms, well-intentioned folks discuss serious issues like health, domestic violence, heinous crimes, and child molestation, among others.

I am sure these discussions bring about efforts to forge a stronger group and approaches to fostering better health, respect among family members and community, etc.

But aren't these meetings best held in the villages so the group engages the very people it seeks to help? A little effort down this path should gradually bring the appropriate clientele to the table so we also hear from their concerns.

For instance, if you wish to help them understand the importance of eating right, the obvious question is whether they are equipped financially to buy the right food? At the village level on a one-on-basis is the perfect venue to hear the whispers of the poor who are, e.g., seriously afflicted with diabetes, etc. Within the four walls of posh hotel conference room you only hear yourself!

I venture saying this given the fact that this scribe grew up in a very poor home. I've got my pride and won't share issues with any Tom, Dick and Harry. But I'll step forward and talk to you at a venue where we both could stand shoulder-to-shoulder and confide my problems and concerns. In other words, try to see it through the prism of your clientele.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Revamp absentee voting rules

Sen. Frank Borja is on the right track to change the runoff into a primary election—not for the right reason but because of the absentee issue. How about prohibiting absentee voting to those who live abroad and are not contributing to the CNMI's economy? Why do we have to spend tens of thousands so we could make them feel important when, in fact, it is ruining the lives of those who live on the islands? Take Tinian and Rota's community. No offense to the two mayors-elect but those who stayed back to support their island and community through thick and thin, with the majority selecting their mayor on their respective islands, were silenced by those that chose to leave the island for a greener pastures.

Here's a few concerns to think about: Other than the right to vote, do you have to roll out the red carpet too? What is the criteria and/or eligibility to be an absentee voter? Are all those U.S. citizens that voted here once or twice eligible to request for an absentee ballot? Why not make it like the old days when the only absentee allowed is if you'll be travelling on election day and those under the payroll of the CNMI government that are working abroad such as the Guam and Honolulu Liaison Office. Other than that, if you want to vote then you have to be on your respective island. Otherwise, I feel they have no business meddling in our affairs. Remember that we are the ones that are feeling the pinch and are suffering. I also hope someone will come up with an idea on how not to spend tens of thousands for a few votes on the Northern Islands voting community. We cannot be spending money we don't have so we could make five people vote. This so-called "civic duty" is getting to be ridiculous and insulting to the hardworking taxpayers. Anyway, if our leaders don't see Tinian and Rota's incidents as a problem, then hey, more power to the absentee voters.

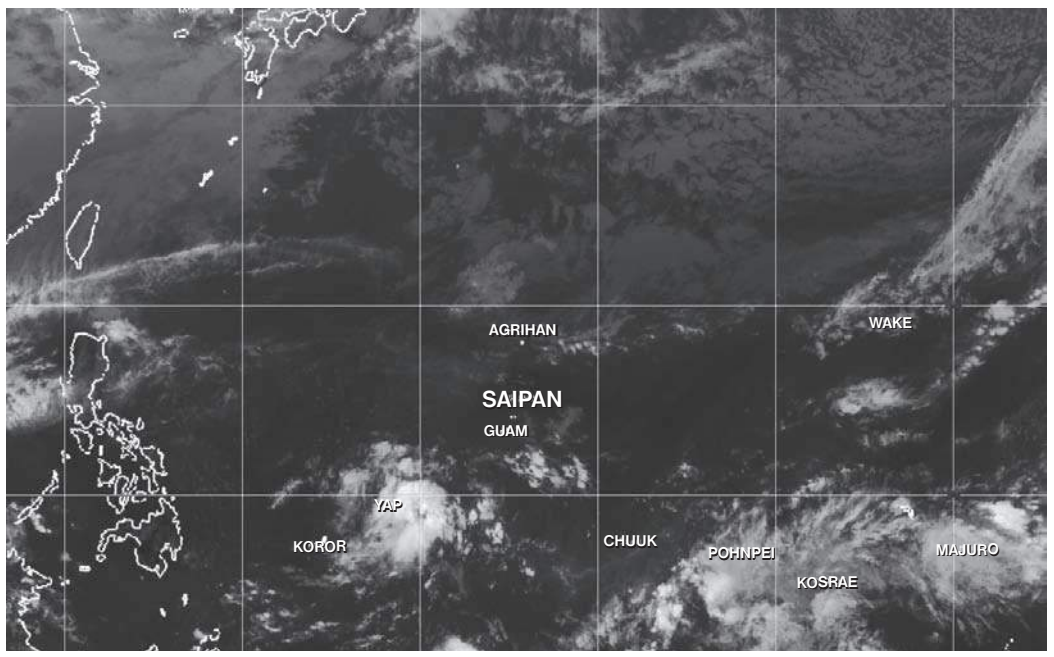
Nicolas Quitugua
Garapan, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward through 25N172E to near Wake Island to 19N161E then continues as a shear line through 16N143E passing north of Saipan. Layered clouds and showers with isolated embedded thunderstorms are located along and up to 200 miles northwest of the cold front with isolated thunderstorms located within 300 miles southeast of the front. Showery cumulus and towering cumulus clouds are located within 200 miles north of the shear line. Another area of showery cumulus and towering cumulus clouds is located from 11N to 14N between 145E and 150E or generally within 300 miles to the east and southeast of Guam and Rota. These clouds are moving to the west at 15 to 20 mph. A tropical disturbance centered near 07N138E or about 200 miles south of Yap is moving to the west at near 15 mph. This disturbance is producing isolated thunderstorms within 500 miles of the center. These clouds are greatest in coverage near Yap and are moving toward Koror. Another area of disturbed weather is located from Pohnpei eastward. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located between 157E and 167E south of 10N and between 167E and 180 from 04N and 10N. Additional isolated thunderstorms are located between Wake Island and Kwajalein or from 14N to 16N between 163E and 168E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲67	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲38	▼19
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼54
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼68
London	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼46
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼56
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼57
Miami	Sunny	▲71	▼51
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲38	▼30
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼40
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼46
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼28
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼40
Salem	Showers	▲56	▼44
San Francisco	Rain	▲63	▼51
Seoul	Snow	▲34	▼19
Tokyo	Showers	▲48	▼37
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼35

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
12:14 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:43 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:34 AM	5:49 PM
Monday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Tuesday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:42 PM	10:40 AM
Saturday	11:29 PM	11:19 AM
Sunday		11:57 AM
Monday	12:15 AM	12:36 PM
Tuesday	1:15 AM	1:14 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	1:30am	5:30am	4, 7
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:50pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	5:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

USP4GG, MARIANAS EYE INSTITUTE

Free health screening Sunday

In an effort to increase awareness on maintaining good health and to promote education on disease prevention, the US Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas chapter, in collaboration with the Marianas Eye Institute, will be holding a free three-hour health screening on Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014, from 8am to 11am, at the Minachom Atdao pavilion in Susupe, Saipan.

Registration starts at 7:30am and will be continuing until 10am.

People who would like to avail of the blood sugar tests are advised fast or to refrain from eating and drinking liquids preferably 12 hours or two hours prior to the actual testing.

"This is the fourth health screening that USP4GG Marianas chapter will be hosting for year 2014. We started doing the free health screening in the CNMI in December 2012. Several key metrics include blood pressure, blood sugar, weight, height, body mass index and vision. Knowing where your health stands help you start realistic personal health goals for the rest of this year and for year 2015. Free health screening events help members of our community take charge of their health. Further, providing such free services not only signifies volunteerism but is also a gesture of a gift to our community during this Christmas Season," said Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of USP4GG Marianas chapter for CNMI and Guam.

Janelle Santiago of Marianas Eye Institute, Valerie Jean Lacsina, Jeffrey Castelo, Mary Deala, Maribeth Gavan and Shanna Layne Mendoza of Marianas Medical Center, USP4GG volunteers, private individuals, and others will be providing the services.

In addition to these health screening services, we will also provide free haircut and manicure to the first 10 members of the community on a first come, first served basis. There will be a registration drive for Philippine TESDA certification for overseas Filipino workers during this event, added Lamkin.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children for free vision screening.

Information on disease prevention such as hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, stroke, heart Attack, among others, will be distributed at the health screening site.

The USP4GG Marianas chapter is committed to provide free health screening services to all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, citizenship, and religion. ***(USP4GG)***

MARIANA OCEAN
Christmas Sale!
10% off
all regular inventory
Special Christmas Package for $25, includes two bars of soap and one lip butter especially made with Christmas scents and flavor.
Available starting December 10th, limited supplies.
Sale from December 1st thru 31st.
Located at Mariana Resort & Spa
11:00am - 11:00pm | 322-0770
Garapan Shop (across GIG)
12:00noon - 11:00pm | 233-0418
12 Night Restaurant Special Christmas Dinner
December 24 & 25, 2014
$85.00 per person +10% service charge
*Local discount applies
White Chocolate and Coconut Mousse
6-inches/17.5 cm - $35 | 9-inches/22.9 cm - $45
Chocolate Cake
6-inches/17.5 cm - $30 | 9-inches/22.9cm - $40
Cake requires advance order
Mariana Resort & Spa
For more information, please call 322-0770 ext. 461 or 462.

Happy Holidays
From the only cell company on island that protects you from high monthly billings.
CAP PLAN $25/month
1000 Local Call Minutes
Unlimited Local SMS
Local Calls and SMS include Guam and the CNMI.
Unlimited Push-To-Talk
Excess local calls - 10¢/minute • Once your usage reaches $45* your local calls become UNLIMITED for the month.
FREE*
i425 THINNEST & LIGHTEST PUSH-TO-TALK PHONE • VOICE DIALING • VOICE MEMO • REAL-MUSIC RINGERS
OTHER FEATURES & OPTIONS
Per Unit | Value Added Services
$6/mo | Unlimited Nationwide (US) SMS
$10/mo | Unlimited Nationwide (US) Calling
3¢/SMS | Philippines SMS to Sun Cellular
5¢/SMS | To all other RP networks
*FREE phone with 24-month sign-up to the $25 Cap Plan. Phone models may vary and are subject to availability. Some conditions apply.
/iconnectguam | iconnectsaipan.com | 888-8888
GROUND FLOOR HK PANGELINAN BLDG. MIDDLE ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU, SAIPAN MP 96950
iCONNECT
Push-To-Talk That Works!

Scoops serves fresh waffle cones, unveils new look

For true ice cream lovers, nothing beats the pleasure of taking the first lick of that sweet frozen delight especially on a hot sunny day; nothing except, perhaps, the bliss of biting into a crunchy and freshly baked waffle cone topped with the familiar taste of Foremost Indulgence ice cream.

Foremost Scoops holds the distinction of being the only ice cream parlor chain on Guam and Saipan that serves waffle cones and—soon—waffle bowls baked fresh daily. The delicious, comforting smell of fresh waffle baking welcomes everyone the moment they walk into Foremost Scoops.

In time for the holidays, Foremost Scoops takes the ice cream experience to the next level, as it unveils its newly upgraded parlor décor, designed to enhance the customer's enjoyment of ice cream. The pleasure of eating ice cream starts with seeing, then smelling and finally, tasting the flavors and textures of the frozen dessert.

On Thanksgiving Day, the young and the young at heart who visited Foremost Scoops Gualo Rai got a feast for the senses as they enjoyed their favorite ice cream amidst larger-than-life photos of perfectly scooped chocolate, pistachio, strawberry, and vanilla ice cream adorning the walls of the ice cream shop. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A girl in costume orders ice cream at Scoops.

Bleeding Disorder Conference
(Hemophilia/von-Wilebrand's Disease)

Presenters:

- Dr. Tiffany Lin, Md, SAAP
  - Pediatric Hematologist
  - Oncology Fellow UC San Francisco
- Cindy Bailey, PT, MS, DPT, OCS, SCS, ATC, EMT
  - Orthopedic Institute for Children Los Angeles

Conference Dates:

- **Dec. 14, 2014** (11:30 am registration-Networking Lunch-Adjournment at 5 pm)
  - PE Teachers
  - Coaches
- **Dec. 17, 2014** (8:00 am registration-lunch-Adjournment at 3:30 pm)
  - Nurses
  - Certified Nurses Assistants (CNA)
  - Midwives
  - Social Workers
  - Social Workers Assistants (SWA)
  - Dental Hygienists
  - Physical Therapists
  - Occupational Therapists
- **Dec. 19, 2014** (8:00 am registration-working lunch-Adjournment at 1:30 pm)
  - Families who have been diagnosed as having a bleeding disorder
  - Physicians
  - Physicians Assistants (PA)
  - Nurse Practitioners (NP)
  - Midwives
  - Dentists
  - Pharmacists

****Special Invitation ONLY Event**

**To register please contact Pam Carhill via email at pam_c@marianashealth.com or call 233-4646 and leave a message
**If you feel you may have a bleeding disorder please see your primary physician immediately.
** If you feel your child may have a bleeding disorder please have your child seen by a pediatrician for diagnosis.
**This conference is FREE.
**Optional: Kinesiology Taping Course provided by Cindy Bailey at a cost of $325.
**Brought to you by the generous support of:

- MCHB/DPH-CHCC (Maternal Child Health Bureau/Division of Public Health Services-Commonwealth Health Care Corporation)
- Biogen Idec
- Orthopedic Institute for Children Los Angeles
- Region IX Hemophilia Treatment Network
- Marianas Health Services
- Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA)

Western States Federal Hemophilia Treatment Centers
marianas health
biogen idec
Northern Mariana Islands Football Association
Maternal & Child Health Bureau

Man sentenced to 37 months in prison for abusive sex contact

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced yesterday that Albert Entera Pingul was sentenced by U.S. District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood to 37 months incarceration and five years supervised release.

Pingul pleaded guilty on March 25, 2014, to one count of abusive sexual conduct in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. Section 2244(a)(1). Pingul, a manager at the Orote Point Bowling Lanes on the U.S. Naval Base, coerced a female employee to enter a mechanic room where he engaged in sexual contact through the use of force. Pingul was ordered to register with the Sex Offender Registry wherever he lives, works or attends school for the duration of his life. Pingul was also ordered to undergo a sex offender assessment.

Limtiaco said: "The aggressive prosecution of all sexual offenses is a priority of the United States Attorney's Office. The U.S. Attorney's Office acknowledges the victim's courage and strength in coming forward and reporting to law enforcement the unwanted sexual contact."

She noted that defendants who have committed sexual abuse of adults or children, have a duty to register and keep their registration current with the Sex Offender Registry in their jurisdiction. Sex offenders who travel to Guam and who reside on Guam must inform the Guam Sex Offender Registry where they reside, work, or attend school. They must also periodically update their registration information. The Sex Offender Registry was created in order to protect the public by protecting victims, preventing further victimization and informing the public of the whereabouts of sex offenders. Guam's Sex Offender Registry can be found online at www.guamcourts.org.

Limtiaco noted that this prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood Initiative, a nationwide commitment to aggressively prosecute defendants who engage in the sexual victimization of children and adults, possess or receive child pornography, and sex offenders who fail to register with the jurisdiction's Sex Offender Registry.

The investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the Naval Criminal Investigation Service. The case was handled by assistant U.S. attorney R. San Nicolas. ***(USAO)***

NMI history book targets Jan. for bid

The new *History of the Northern Marianas Islands* textbook by Don Farrell has set a date for bid and will serve as a complement to current textbooks used by schools in the CNMI, according to Public School Systems federal programs officer Tim Thornburg Wednesday.

A Jan. 31 2014, date has been targeted for the book to be put out for bid for publishing, according to Thornburg. PSS hopes to have 6,000 copies out in May for sale and distribution, he said.

First published in 1991, the new version of the book will provide "more updated history" and will amount to 10 chapters comprising 700 pages, according to Thornburg. The first book totaled about 350 pages.

As reported earlier, most of the layout is completed. However, Farrell would like time to include this year's general elections.

Don Farrell is a local historian who has lived on Tinian for many years. His *History of the Mariana Islands to Partition* is taught in the CNMI junior high schools. His other works include histories of Guam, Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

The BIG DEAL
2014 Model Clearance
Save Big Right Now.
Ford 2014 FordExplorer
Power up and experience more.
With our state-of-the-art 2.0L EcoBoost® Turbo Charged I-4 Engine Explorers has the best highway fuel economy of any non-hybrid engine in its class. A full size 7 passenger SUV with up to 28MPG HWY that fits your families lifestyle.
Also available in 3.5L Ti-VCT V6 Engine with 6-Speed SelectShift Transmission paired with intelligent 4WD to give seamless shift-on-the-fly confidence.

2014 CLEARANCE

FORD	STOCK #	Color	Discount
Fiesta S	EM225300	White	$2,500.00
~~Fiesta SE~~	~~EM22~~ SOLD	~~Blue~~	~~$2,500.00~~
Fiesta SE	EM225301	Gray	$2,500.00
~~Escape S~~	~~EUD1~~ SOLD	~~Gray~~	~~$3,000.00~~
Escape S	EUD12669	Blue	$3,000.00
Escape SE	EUB67717	Red	$3,500.00
~~Explorer EcoBoost~~	~~EGB2~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$4,000.00~~
Explorer XLT 4WD	EGB05148	Darkside	$4,000.00
F150 STX 4WD	EKE73316	Silver	$5,000.00

NISSAN	STOCK #	Color	Discount
Altima SV	EC177739	Mocha	$3,000.00
Altima SV	EC157024	White	$3,000.00
Rogue S	EC754914	Silver	$3,000.00
NV200 SV	EK696537	White	$3,000.00
~~Frontier SV~~	~~EN71~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
Frontier PRO4X	EN747027	Red	$4,000.00
Xterra PRO4X	EN807863	Red	$4,000.00
Maxima SV Sport	EC457171	Mocha	$4,000.00
~~Pathfinder Platinum~~	~~EC65~~ SOLD	~~Gray~~	~~$5,000.00~~

HONDA	STOCK #	Color	Discount
~~Civic LX~~	~~EE06553~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$2,500.00~~
~~Civic LX~~	~~EE00224~~ SOLD	~~Blue~~	~~$2,500.00~~
Civic LX	EE046655	Maroon	$2,500.00
Civic LX	EE065865	Silver	$2,500.00
~~Accord LX~~	~~EA26617~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~Accord EX~~	~~EA18773~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~CR-V LX~~	~~EL02628~~ SOLD	~~Blue~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~CR-V EX~~	~~EL02846~~ SOLD	~~Mocha~~	~~$3,000.00~~
~~Odyssey EX~~	~~EB11100~~ SOLD	~~Gray~~	~~$4,000.00~~

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM • SAT. 8:00 AM - 12:00 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

Sherwood® Home & Car Audio
P.O. Box 50464 Saipan, MP 96950 Chalan Piao • Tel. No.: (670) 235-1470 • Fax (670) 235-1471 • Email: kncorp7@hotmail.com

INVENTORY SALE!

DAEWOO WINDOW TYPE AIRCON

5000 BTU $143.99
8000 BTU $215.99
5000 BTU W/REMOTE $157.99
8000 BTU W/REMOTE $229.99

SPECIAL SALE
10,000 BTU $199.99
12,000 BTU $239.99

TOSHIBA LAPTOP

$499.99

TABLET

SUPERSONIC 7" $119.00
SUPERSONIC 7" w/ 3G Cellphone $149.99

SONY TELEVISION

32" LED TV $429.00
40" LED TV $599.00
40" LED INTERNET TV $679.00
60" LED INTERNET TV $1,399.00

60" 3D LED INTERNET TV $1,799.00

SUPERSONIC TELEVISION

24" LED TV $259.00
32" LED TV $359.00

KARAOKE MIC
Reg. Price $259.99
SPECIAL PRICE $179.99

WIRELESS KARAOKE
2-MICROPHONE $339.99

USB INPUT / HDMI OUTPUT

Song Chip $59.99
(POP/Chamorro/Filipino)

CAR STEREO
10%-20% OFF
CD Receiver, Amplifier, Subwooper
SPEAKER 6"X9", 6-1/2", 5-1/4", 4"

DAEWOO REFRIGERATOR

9.5 cu ft $399.99
20.8 cu ft $699.99

DAEWOO WASHING MACHINE

SPECIAL PRICE $399.99

10kg Washer capacity
Air-bubble washing
Smart Filter
New Wave Pulsator
WIND DRY

MTEC announces tourism essay contest for students

The Marianas Tourism Education Council has announced an essay contest for all public and private school students on the theme "Tourism & Our Community."

The contest is open to grades 3-12. All entries must be typed and received by 5pm, Jan. 5, 2015, at the Marianas Visitors Authority office on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota. Entries must include the student's name, teacher's name, school, and grade level.

"For the last four years, MTEC has been visiting the schools to teach the students about the importance of tourism, how it benefits them, and how they can support it," said MTEC chairwoman Vicky Benavente. "This essay contests allows them to now give *us* what they've learned and how they feel it affects their lives. We thank our financial donors this year, the many businesses in the community who have contributed, such as Docomo Pacific and T Galleria, for making this essay contest and cash prizes possible."

MTEC

Mary Grace Tiglao, right, attends the Guam Tourism Summit in January 2014 after winning the high division of the Marianas Tourism Education Council's essay contest on tourism. Tiglao was joined by her parents and MTEC board member Larry Lee, second from right.

» Theme: Tourism & Our Community

The essay contest has three categories. Grade 3-6 may submit essays of up to 300 words. Grades 7-8 may submit essays of up to 500 words. Grades 9-12 may submit essays of up to 600 words.

Three winners will be selected from each category. Prizes for grades 3-8 are $50 (1st place), $30 (2nd place), and $20 (3rd place). Prizes from grades 9-12 are $75 and one roundtrip ticket to 2015 MY WAVE Tourism Summit in Guam (non-transferable, 1st place), $60 (2nd place), $50 (3rd place).

Last year's 1st place high school winner, Mary Grace Tiglao, won a trip to attend the Guam Tourism Summit.

"Tourism runs the CNMI. If we work together to maintain and take care of our island home, we're not just making it appealing for others to see but we're also preserving all of its natural beauty for our future generations to enjoy….So what are you waiting for? Why not help out?" Tiglao wrote.

Winners will be announced at MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit on Jan. 22-23, 2015. For more information, contact MVA Community Projects Assistant Charlene Mendoza at cmendoza@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3210. ***(MTEC)***

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-15-2321

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

For: GARAPAN AREA TRASH COLLECTION SERVICE

Closing Date: January 9, 2015 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (closed 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

NOTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan MO 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.mmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (including Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing for calendar year 2015. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on our listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies that are not on our list of approved contractors but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
4. 2 Years Corporate Income Tax Returns (1120)
5. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
6. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
7. Workmen's Compensation Policy
8. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
9. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts
10. At least three (3) reference letters from owners of the completed projects
11. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them (CONSTRUCTION QUARRY, READY-MIX CEMENT & HARDWARE STORES)
12. Company background
13. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable
14. Annual Report (Registrar of Corporations)

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY DECEMBER 12, 2014 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS."

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/S/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTLITIES COMMISSION

Amended Request For Proposal
CPUC-RFP-14-001
CPUC Expert Consultant Services

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") hereby issues this amendment to the solicitation for competitive sealed proposals from a qualified Firm/Individual(s) to provide consultant services for and on behalf of the Commission in connection with its regulatory oversight duties of public utilities, telecommunication carriers and cable television operators during business within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This amendment extends the proposal due date, establishes a new opening date and sets another pre-bid conference.

The Scope-of-Work remains unchanged by the amendment and will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Proposers, by CPUC. Requests for Proposal (RFP) packages may be obtained by email by sending an email request to cpuc.cnmi@gmail.com. The requesting email shall clearly identify the name, address and telephone number of the requesting party as well as specify the name and title of the contact person for the requesting party. A non-refundable registration fee of One Hundred U.S. Dollars ($100.00) must be paid to CPUC in cash, cashier's check or certified check payable to the order of the Commission to complete the registration and be deemed a registered proposer. The payment may be made by personal delivery to the CPUC office located at the CDA Building, Unit #103, Beach Road, Oleai, Saipan, Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm. Payment may also be made by certified mail to the following address: Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, P.O. Box 501219, Saipan MP 96950. The registration fee shall be deemed paid upon CPUC's receipt of the funds. For additional information, contact Commissioner Dave Guerrero by email at cpuc.cnmi@gmail.com or call 235-2782 (CPUC).

A pre-bid conference will be held on **December 29, 2014** at 10:00 a.m. at the CPUC conference room located at Unit 103, Ground Floor, CDA Building, Saipan, CNMI. All inquires from Proposers must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on **December 26, 2014** to Commissioner Dave Guerrero by email at cpuc.cnmi@gmail.com or by postal mail addressed to Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, P.O. Box 501219, Saipan MP 96950. CPUC will only respond to questions and clarifications from prospective Proposers who have completed registration with the CPUC for the solicitation. The response to an inquiry from a registered Offeror will be transmitted to all other registered Proposers without identifying the Proposer that made the inquiry.

One (1) original and three (3) copies of a proposal must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"RFP-14-001: CPUC Expert Consultant Services** no later than **January 7, 2015** at 4:30 p.m. (CHST) local time. The submission can be by personal delivery or by certified mail or private courier. A submission by mail or private courier must be deposited for delivery on or before 4:30 p.m. **January 7, 2015**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to cpuc.cnmi@gmail.com by 4:30 p.m. CHST local time on **January 7, 2015**. Late submissions, conditional offers and incomplete proposals will not be considered. The proposals will be publicly opened at 10:00 a.m. on **January 8, 2015** at the CPUC Conference Room located at Unit 103, Ground floor of the CDA Building, Saipan, CNMI.

The proposer is required to submit a copy of its CNMI Business license or a copy of its filed CNMI Business license application within five (5) days upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All bidders are advised that CPUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CPUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CPUC Procurement Regulations. Contract/s will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CPUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CPUC.

/s/ **Joseph C. Guerrero**
Chairperson, CPUC

Mazda expands US air bag recall to nationwide

40 FOR 40 WINNER

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters' staff member Samantha Sikayun, right, poses with the company's 28th 40 for 40 Giveaway winner, Guadalupe Borja-Robinson, left, after the presentation of a certificate toward free insurance. Forty for 40 is a giveaway promotion designed to thank the CNMI and Pacifica's loyal patrons for 40 years of business—40 winners for a year of free insurance in celebration of 40 years. Only Pacifica policyholders are eligible for this giveaway. Last drawing is slated for Dec. 15. For information about Pacifica's 40 for 40 giveaway log on to www.pacificains.com/fortyforforty or call 234-6267/7722/7310. Rest assured, CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TOKYO (AP)—Mazda is expanding its U.S. recall for Takata air bags that may explode to the entire country, following Japanese rival Honda in the decision. Honda said its expanded recalls will also be global, although the numbers are still unclear.

Mazda Motor Corp. said Wednesday it will officially notify the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration soon, but was still compiling details including the exact vehicle numbers requiring recall.

NHTSA is demanding nationwide air bag recalls. The recalls have concentrated on regions with high humidity, which is suspected as factor in the explosions.

So far the Mazda recalls for driver side air bags total about 87,000 vehicles. Making the recall nationwide would likely lift that number to 330,000 vehicles.

Japanese supplier Takata Corp. is under fire for air bag inflators that can explode, shooting out metal and plastic pieces. At least five deaths and dozens of injuries have been linked to the problem worldwide.

Takata has refused the NHTSA demand for nationwide recalls, although it has said it will cooperate with automakers who decide to do them.

Honda Motor Co. said this week that it will comply with the NHTSA demand, adding 2.6 million more vehicles to its recall, which will now total 5.4 million vehicles.

Honda is making that expanded recall global, including 135,000 vehicles being recalled in Japan. The Tokyo-based automaker is arranging similar recalls throughout the world, but the numbers are still unclear, according to Honda.

But Honda is calling it a "safety improvement campaign" to address customer concerns, not because the product is defective. Honda has vowed to carry out a thorough investigation of the problem, first reported in 2004, and will share its findings, he said.

Mazda is also saying it is unclear whether there's a defect but it will carry out the recall to investigate.

Although Takata has found production errors and other defects, the root cause of the explosions has not yet been pinpointed.

Meanwhile, for passenger-side air bag inflators, NHTSA says that recalls remain limited to high-humidity areas because there's no data to suggest a problem with them nationwide.

LAW REVISION COMMISSION

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
JUDICIAL BRANCH

House of Justice • Guma Hustisia • Iimwal Aweewe
P.O.Box 502179
Saipan, MP 96950-2179

Tel: (670) 236-9820
Fax: (670) 236-9897
E-Mail: cnmilaw@justice.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, December 17, 2014, 12:00 p.m.
Commonwealth Law Revision Commission Office
House of Justice/Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe
Susupe, Saipan

Agenda

1. **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order and Roll Call
   b. Introductions
   c. Meeting Notice (Compliance with Open Government Act, 1 CMC § 9901 et seq.)
   d. Final Approval of May 14, 2014 Meeting Minutes
2. **Executive Director's Report**
   a. New Staff Attorney
   b. 2014 Products
   c. Website
   d. Proposed FY 2016 Budget
   e. Sale Items
3. **Old Business**
   a. Trust Territory Code & Cases
   b. Commonwealth Code Books RFP
   c. Driver's Education Handbook
   d. Professional Development
4. **New Business**
   a. Reporter of Decisions
   b. Older Products
   c. Public Access Computer Terminals
5. **Other Business**
6. **Tentative Date for Next Meeting and Adjournment**

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

CENTURY INSURANCE CO., LTD.
Applicant

In the Matter of the Application for Withdrawal and to Permanently Discontinue the Transaction of Insurance Business in the CNMI pursuant to § 20-40.1-210 of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner Rules and Regulations

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW

Notice is hereby given that Century Insurance Company, Ltd., with business address at JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950 intends to withdraw and to permanently discontinue the transaction of insurance business in the CNMI, effective December 31, 2014.

All current and existing policies and claims will be assumed by Century Insurance Company (Guam), Ltd., effective January 1, 2015.

Any person who objects to such withdrawal must give good sufficient cause therefore within one (1) week from date of last publication with the Insurance Commissioner with mailing address at Caller Box 10007 CK, Saipan MP 96950.

Sablan Enterprises, Inc *dba* SABLAN REALTY

With Three Great Commercial Building Locations in Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, and San Jose

Sunday Bazaar
Holiday Shopping at VS Sablan Plaza every Sunday
December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2014 • 8:00am to 7:00pm
Melanie's Gift Shop. KRM General Merchandise

SABLAN REALTY
invites you to locate your business or residence at one of our great locations. **Maintenance Free. Common Areas & Grounds Cleaned Daily.**

Commercial Space for Rent
at our San Jose & Chalan Piao Buildings.

Sablan Building in San Jose
First Floor: 1 Unit Available. 600 sq.ft. at **65¢ per square foot.**
Units on the **Second Floor** are also available at **50¢ per square foot.**

SPECIAL RENT PROMO

Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA we have rental space available on the **first floor** now at **50 cents per square foot** for units ranging from 541 sq. ft. to 1400 sq ft. Large 4500 square foot space on the **second floor** that would be ideal for a Daycare Center, Dance Studio or Gym at **35¢ per square foot.**
Second Floor - Office Space, 900 sq.ft. to 1,400 sq. ft. at **50¢ per square foot.**

2nd Floor Office Space (1 Unit) Available at Chalan Kanoa, Above Bank of Saipan - **800 Sq ft per unit at 65 cents per square foot.**

Contact Tony Muna
(Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address:plebechamp80@gmail.com)
or Ben Sablan
(Cell No. 898-7500 Email Address: ben.sablan1994@gmail.com)
or Call 234-2585/235-9020

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are

GUANGDONG MILEI?
GUANGDONG BA ITO?

GOOD NEWS TO ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:
To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be made through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.

LED FLUORESCENT TUBE
Best Price in Saipan
Less & More
- Less money, 50% energy saving!
- More stable, bright, and fashionable!
- More lifetime and environmental protection!

Your Smart Choice!

ALUMINUM WINDOW
New Arrival
MADE IN USA | All Sizes
VARIOUS STYLES:
French, Aluminum, Bronze

NEW DESIGN!!
FASHIONABLE
CERAMIC TILE
Big Promotion!
The Best Price and Quality in Saipan

PAINT SPECTRUM
- Special Formula for Tropical Marine Climate
- Longer Service Life
- Top Quality

FLAT & SEMI-GLOSS
INT & EXT LATEX

REBAR
US STANDARD
#3 to #8
MADE IN KOREA

HOLLOW BLOCKS
4" · 6" · 8"

THIN-SET MORTAR

CEMENT
US STANDARD
DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN-$3.00/BAG

U.S LUMBER
REGULAR | PRESSURE TREATED

MAHOGANY LUMBER & DOOR JAMB
HIGH QUALITY/FULL SIZE

CHAIN LINK FENCE
Full Size
"The Best Price in Saipan"

15% TO 75% OFF ALL DAMAGED ITEMS!

CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!

P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

AMERICAN EXPRESS · MasterCard · VISA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK I
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be $20,485 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL II
On the island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Director of Law Enforcement and Security in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs general court security duties, including providing safety and security during judicial proceedings, providing protection from harm and personal injury to assigned justices, judges, court personnel, clients, jurors and witnesses;
- Provide protection from damage and vandalism to the court facilities, equipment and other related resources;
- Assist with all necessary inspection and screening of persons and items entering the court facilities restricting from entry those that are prohibited within the court premises;
- Assists in transporting and escorting prisoners and other detainees who are awaiting court appearance. This includes transporting prisoners from the Department of Public Safety (or from other locations as instructed) to the courthouse and return; from the courthouse holding cells to the courtrooms and return, and other related work;
- Provide physical and electronic security monitoring of all assigned areas under the control of the Marshal Division;
- Assist in protecting and transporting (if necessary) jurors and other court personnel during jury trial and deliberation;
- Assist with court bailiff functions;
- Assist in the preparation of reports of service and no-service, including submission of daily activity and incident reports;
- Provides the general public with direction and general information on all judicial service locations with the courthouse;
- Attends and successfully completes all training courses as directed by the Director of Law Enforcement and Security, including but not limited to, any law enforcement officers training courses offered through the Northern Marians College;
- Assists the other Deputy Marshals in their duties; and
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree, plus a minimum of two (2) years experience in legal, law enforcement, court work or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be $18,585 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Mayor Marian Tudela and Mrs. Hitoshi Kikuchi pose for a photo with United Filipino Organization officials and other guests.

DENNIS B. CHAN

CHC's Esther Muna, DEQ's David Rosario, and DCCA's Laura Ogumoro and other guests enjoy the reception last Wednesday night.

Japan consulate hosts reception for Emperor Akihito's birthday

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

DENNIS B. CHAN

Education officials from the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College smile for a photo at the emperor's birthday reception Wednesday night.

The CNMI government joined the Consular Office of Japan in celebrating Emperor Akihito's 81st birthday at the Hafadai Beach Hotel Wednesday night.

Both Japanese Consul Hitoshi Kikuchi and Gov. Eloy S. Inos affirmed the ties between Japan and the CNMI amidst Japan's current economic turmoil.

"While the number of Japanese tourists have decreased, relations between the CNMI and Japan date back to more than a century ago, so the mutual affinity remains very strong. I personally believe we can continue to develop our ties, from friends to friends, for the years to come," Kikuchi said.

He also promoted Japan as a place of study for CNMI students.

"In recent years, student exchanges between the CNMI and Japan have considerably expanded. Throughout this process I sincerely hope that the CNMI should focus more on universities in Japan for further study in the future," he said, adding that Japan has many private and local scholarships to offer.

He talked about the sake ceremony to be performed that night, and how this "intangible cultural property" and others are enjoyed by many the world over.

"It is a pity that majority of the local CNMI residents just make a transit at the Narita International Airport to the U.S. mainland or other destinations. I would like to strongly encourage the people of the CNMI to visit Japan for sightseeing and other purposes," he said.

He said Japan highly values its relationship with the CNMI, and that they look forward to working with the CNMI to make their ties even stronger.

On behalf of the CNMI, Inos extended birthday wishes to the emperor for a long and healthy life. The emperor and his wife visited the islands in 2005.

"We join the people of Japan in celebrating His Majesty's birthday as well as the historic ties to continue to bind our people and our islands together," he said.

"Although our Japanese tourism is declining, we are working hard to try to bring back out Japanese guests to our islands, and we're spending a lot of resources to be able to do that."

The reception was attended by more than 150 guests from the CNMI government, businesses, and the Japanese community. Emperor Akihito is the 125th emperor of Japan.

House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Mayor Marianne Tudela, the governor and Kikuchi led the sake ceremony after the honorary remarks.

Business

THANKS TO OIL SLUMP

Air fares seen dipping in 2015

GENEVA (AP)—Flying could get cheaper next year as airlines say they will finally start passing on some of the savings made on plummeting oil prices.

Carriers are forecasting record profits for 2015 thanks to cheaper fuel and rising demand. As a result, they expect to cut the average ticket price by 5 percent in 2015, excluding surcharges and taxes.

That may not be a big decrease considering that the price of crude oil has fallen 40 percent since June, but is the most carriers can do for now, the International Air Transport Associated said Wednesday.

The association, which represents 240 airlines, or 84 percent of total air traffic, notes carriers are still stuck with contracts for fuel that pre-date the past months' price slump.

That's one reason why airlines have this year not cut ticket prices despite the oil price fall. In fact, as demand for flying remains strong, fares have been going up.

But things should start changing next year. That's when airlines' fuel costs will start reflecting the recent plunge in energy markets, says IATA's chief economist, Brian Pearce.

"It's going to be six months or so before airlines are seeing lower fuel costs, and at that point consumers are likely to see a fall in travel costs," Pearce told The Associated Press.

The airlines will still be making more money. They forecast record net profit of $25 billion next year—well above the $19.9 billion this year, the $10.6 billion in 2013 and $6.1 billion in 2012.

That is based on a forecast that the price of oil will average $85 per barrel. On Wednesday, the U.S. contract was trading below $63 a barrel.

IATA's U.S. counterpart, Airlines for America, declined to comment on where fares are headed but expressed satisfaction with lower fuel prices.

"We're certainly hopeful that the cost environment and the demand environment will stay healthy" so airlines can invest in new planes and passenger amenities, said the U.S. trade group's chief economist, John Heimlich.

Demand for travel has been so strong that airlines just haven't seen a need to cut prices. That approach has helped drive airline stocks higher as fuel prices have tumbled. But on Tuesday, shares of Spirit Airlines Inc. plunged 12.7 percent—and other U.S. airlines fell too—after the discount carrier said it saw signs that cheaper fuel was leading to lower prices on last-minute tickets.

Despite higher earnings, many airlines remain cautious about their finances as profit margins remain slim. Geneva-based IATA said margins are forecast at only 3.2 percent, just up from 3.1 percent in 2010.

Tony Tyler, director-general and CEO of IATA, said that even with the fall in jet fuel prices, the average profit would still amount to little more than $7 per passenger per flight—well below other industries.

He note Starbucks, for example, has a declared profit margin of about 14 percent.

"If that is the case, they will retain as much from selling seven cups of coffee as an airline will make selling an average ticket," Tyler said.

That's why airlines are taking advantage of a golden moment, in which fuel costs are falling just as demand rises.

Passenger traffic has been expanding by about 5.5 percent per year for the past two decades but IATA said it is expected to grow 7 percent in 2015.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL I
On the island of ROTA

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Director of Law Enforcement and Safety in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court's security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms;
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be $16,652 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

PROBATION OFFICER I

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Probation Officer in the Office of Adult Probation on Saipan which involves investigating, monitoring and/or supervising various levels and types of offenders' court ordered probation. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs all assigned duties relating to probationers' cases scheduled for court hearings;
- Investigates thoroughly offenders' personal history, background and environment;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual cases from resource areas like the offenders' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc.
- Conducts interviews with probationers according to approved techniques in order to determine and clarify probationers' problems, and consulting with the supervisor as necessary, suggests constructive methods for dealing with such problems;
- Contacts public and private community agencies to secure their aid in solving probationers' problems. Maintains a continuing and ongoing relationship with the agencies as necessary;
- Documents facts and testifies in Court with respect to the Probationers' activities, behavior, and quality of adjustment while under supervision;
- Appears in Court for the purpose of providing testimony on Probation cases;
- Enforces Court Orders involving Probation cases;
- Attends public relations activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions; and
- Performs other law enforcement and public safety related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university. Have three (3) years experience in legal, law enforcement and/or court work. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary will be $20,485 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL I
On the island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Director of Law Enforcement and Safety in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court's security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms;
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be $16,652 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Nation

CIA fights back

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top spies past and present campaigned Wednesday to discredit the Senate's investigation into the CIA's harrowing torture practices after 9/11, battling to define the historical record and deter potential legal action around the world.

Hayden

The Senate intelligence committee's report doesn't urge prosecution for wrongdoing, and the Justice Department has no interest in reopening a criminal probe. But the threat to former interrogators and their superiors was underlined as a U.N. special investigator demanded those responsible for "systematic crimes" be brought to justice, and human rights groups pushed for the arrest of key CIA and Bush administration figures if they travel overseas.

Current and former CIA officials pushed back, determined to paint the Senate report as a political stunt by Senate Democrats tarnishing a program that saved American lives. It is a "one-sided study marred by errors of fact and interpretation—essentially a poorly done and partisan attack on the agency that has done the most to protect America," former CIA directors George Tenet, Porter Goss and Michael Hayden wrote in a Wall Street Journal opinion piece.

Hayden was singled out by Senate investigators for what they said was a string of misleading or outright false statements he gave in 2007 about the importance of the CIA's brutal treatment of detainees in thwarting terrorist attacks. He described the focus on him as "ironic on so many levels" as any wrongdoing predated his arrival at the CIA. "They were far too interested in yelling at me," Hayden said in an email to The Associated Press.

The intelligence committee's 500-page release concluded that the CIA inflicted suffering on al-Qaida prisoners beyond its legal authority and that none of the agency's "enhanced interrogations" provided critical, life-saving intelligence. It cited the CIA's own records, documenting in detail how waterboarding and lesser-known techniques such as "rectal feeding" were actually employed.

The CIA is now in the uncomfortable position of defending itself publicly, given its basic mission to protect the country secretly. Its 136-page rebuttal suggests Senate Democrats searched through millions of documents to pull out only the evidence backing up pre-determined conclusions. "That's like doing a crossword puzzle on Tuesday with Wednesday's answer's key," the CIA said in an emailed statement.

Challenging one of the report's most explosive arguments—that harsh interrogation techniques didn't lead to Osama bin Laden—the CIA pointed to questioning of Ammar al-Baluchi, who revealed how an al-Qaida operative relayed messages to and from bin Laden after he departed Afghanistan. Before then, the CIA said, it only knew that courier Abu Ahmad al-Kuwaiti interacted with bin Laden in 2001 when the al-Qaida leader was accessible to many of his followers. Al-Kuwaiti eventually led the U.S. to bin Laden's compound in Pakistan.

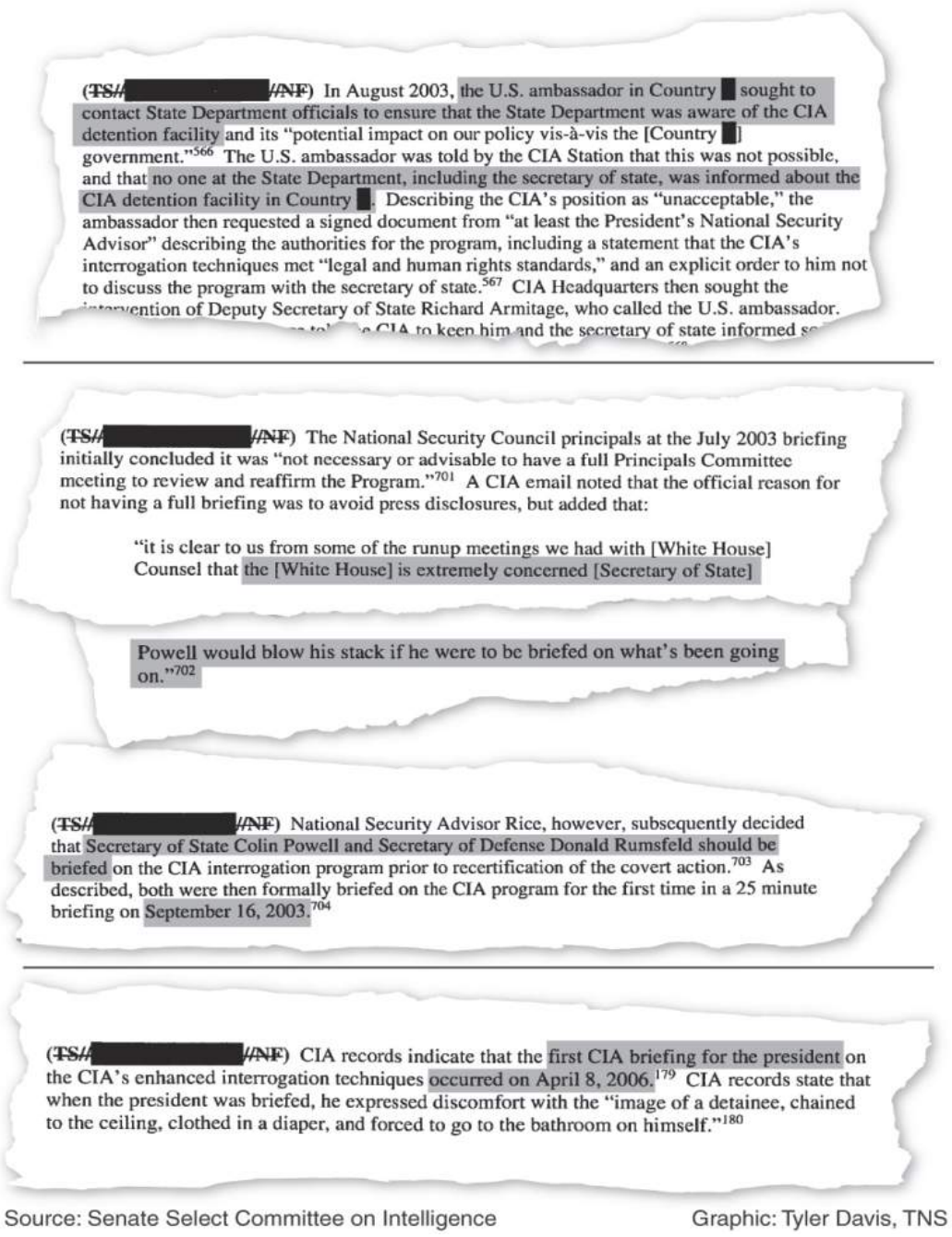
Poring over the same body of evidence as the investigators, the CIA insisted most of the 20 case studies cited in the Senate report actually illustrated how enhanced interrogations helped disrupt plots, capture terrorists and prevent another 9/11-type attack. The agency said it obtained legal authority for its actions from the Justice Department and White House, and made "good faith" efforts to keep congressional leaders informed.

Former CIA officials responsible for the program echoed these points in interviews.

John McLaughlin, then deputy CIA director, said waterboarding and other tactics transformed Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed into a U.S. "consultant" on al-Qaida.

CIA enhanced interrogation: Who was briefed?

The details of the CIA's enhanced interrogation techniques were not known by President George W. Bush until 2006, according to the Senate's report on the CIA detention program.


(TS/[redacted]/NF) In August 2003, the U.S. ambassador in Country [redacted] sought to contact State Department officials to ensure that the State Department was aware of the CIA detention facility and its "potential impact on our policy vis-à-vis the [Country [redacted]] government."[566] The U.S. ambassador was told by the CIA Station that this was not possible, and that no one at the State Department, including the secretary of state, was informed about the CIA detention facility in Country [redacted]. Describing the CIA's position as "unacceptable," the ambassador then requested a signed document from "at least the President's National Security Advisor" describing the authorities for the program, including a statement that the CIA's interrogation techniques met "legal and human rights standards," and an explicit order to him not to discuss the program with the secretary of state.[567] CIA Headquarters then sought the intervention of Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, who called the U.S. ambassador.
(TS/[redacted]/NF) The National Security Council principals at the July 2003 briefing initially concluded it was "not necessary or advisable to have a full Principals Committee meeting to review and reaffirm the Program."[701] A CIA email noted that the official reason for not having a full briefing was to avoid press disclosures, but added that:
"it is clear to us from some of the runup meetings we had with [White House] Counsel that the [White House] is extremely concerned [Secretary of State]
Powell would blow his stack if he were to be briefed on what's been going on."[702]
(TS/[redacted]/NF) National Security Advisor Rice, however, subsequently decided that Secretary of State Colin Powell and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld should be briefed on the CIA interrogation program prior to recertification of the covert action.[703] As described, both were then formally briefed on the CIA program for the first time in a 25 minute briefing on September 16, 2003.[704]
(TS/[redacted]/NF) CIA records indicate that the first CIA briefing for the president on the CIA's enhanced interrogation techniques occurred on April 8, 2006.[179] CIA records state that when the president was briefed, he expressed discomfort with the "image of a detainee, chained to the ceiling, clothed in a diaper, and forced to go to the bathroom on himself."[180]

Source: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Graphic: Tyler Davis, TNS

Alabama woman convicted in children sex abuse ring

BAY MINETTE, Ala. (AP)—The conviction Wednesday of an Alabama woman accused of being part of an incestuous sex ring provided graphic evidence about horrendous child molestation, but it didn't answer a baffling question: What happened to a young victim who is missing and presumed dead?

Holland

Jurors took two hours to convict Wendy Wood Holland, 35, of sodomy, sexual abuse, sexual torture and child endangerment. She showed no emotion when the verdict was read. Prosecutors say Holland faces at least 20 years in prison and could get a life sentence.

Witnesses heard two days of testimony in her trial that didn't give any clues about the whereabouts of her 19-year-old niece Brittney Wood.

Wood was last seen with Holland's husband, Donnie, in 2012, and 11 people have since been arrested on sex-related charges. That includes Wendy Holland, on trial on charges of sexually abusing another underage relative.

Authorities said Wood could provide important evidence about sexual crimes by her adult relatives if only they could find her alive. But searches and two years of investigation have failed to turn up any sign of her. Police believe Wood is dead, possibly killed in the days before the case went public.

Following the disappearance, Holland was charged with sexual abuse, sodomy, sexual torture and child endangerment.

Donnie Holland was under investigation as the leader of the alleged sex ring at the time of Wood's disappearance, and he died days later of what authorities ruled was a self-inflicted gunshot.

Prosecutors told jurors during closing arguments that Wendy Holland, her late husband and others were monsters who subjected their own children and others to perversions that were almost too depraved to understand, with parents and in-laws using their own young relatives for sex.

Burning death inquiry eyes woman's last hours

COURTLAND, Miss. (AP)—Surveillance video that shows a woman at a convenience store gas station less than two hours before she was set on fire and left to die is part of the puzzle authorities were trying to piece together Wednesday about the last hours of the 19-year-old's life.

Chambers

Authorities were reviewing Jessica Chambers' cellphone records and talking to possible witnesses, who could become suspects, said Jay Hale, an assistant district attorney who prosecutes cases in Panola County. They are trying to figure out what happened to her before she was found barely alive near her burning car Saturday in Mississippi.

Hale said Chambers spoke with firefighters on the scene before she was taken to a Memphis hospital, where she died. Hale said he could not discuss what she said.

"She was able to communicate. It was difficult," Hale said.

The video shows Chambers walking toward the front door of the convenience store in Courtland, which is about an hour south of Memphis, Tennessee. She then stopped, turned to her left, and walked out of the picture.

Convenience store manager Ali Fadhel said Chambers came in frequently and he would often speak with her. He told The Associated Press that Chambers spoke with someone before entering the store to purchase gas.

On her way out, Chambers got a call on her cellphone, Fadhel said. After she pumped gas, she re-entered the store, bought cigarettes, and drove away, headed south on Highway 51, he said.

According to Fadhel, Chambers was wearing a dark-colored sweater and pajama pants that looked like sweatpants. Chambers said she was going to make a stop before going home, Fadhel said.

Nearly 9 in 10 doubt Obama, GOP can break gridlock

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans may not agree on much lately, but one opinion is nearly universal: There's almost no chance that President Barack Obama, a Democrat, and the Republican Congress can work together to solve the country's problems.

A new Associated Press-GfK poll finds just 13 percent of Americans are confident the leaders, separated by nearly 2 miles of Pennsylvania Avenue, can work together, while 86 percent have no such faith. That's far more than the 58 percent who felt that way just after the 2010 midterm elections in which the tea party movement rose to prominence.

The doubts cross party lines: Fewer than 1 in 5 Democrats or independents have confidence the two sides can cooperate. Republicans are even more pessimistic, with just 1 in 10 confident Obama and Congress can work together.

Those who lack confidence spread the blame around: 41 percent say neither side would do enough to work together, 35 percent place more blame on the Republicans, 22 percent on the president.

Neither side holds much hope things are going to get better, either. Just 16 percent think the president is likely to restore public trust in government in the next two years, while 20 percent feel congressional Republicans will.

Robert Cole, 65, says both Democrats and Republicans deserve blame for Washington's stalemate: "If you want to place the blame, it rests on the American voter."

"They're not doing their jobs, and we as the electorate are stupid in sending the same people back and expecting things to change," said Cole, a retiree who lives in Ocala, Florida.

But not everyone sees cooperation as a positive.

"In my view, the Republicans were doing what they needed to do to block a harmful agenda coming from the executive branch," said Ron Tykoski, 42, a paleontologist from Nevada, Texas.

Asia

Hong Kong police start clearing main protest camp

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong authorities started clearing barricades Thursday from a pro-democracy protest camp spread across a busy highway as part of a final push to retake streets occupied by activists for two and a half months.

Watched by police, workers in white helmets used box cutters and pliers to remove plastic ties from the barricades, which were made up of metal and plastic safety barriers topped with traffic cones and scaffolding poles. They then passed parts of the barricades to co-workers who quickly shuffled them away to the side of the road.

The protesters reject Beijing's restrictions on the first election for the city's top leader, scheduled for 2017, but have failed to win any concessions from Hong Kong's government, and the movement's momentum has faded recently as the government stuck to its apparent strategy of waiting the protesters out.

Politics student Max Leung, 22, said he felt sad to see the barricades removed and would stay until police cleared the area. He said he was willing to be arrested but would not resist officers.

"We redefined the public space," Leung said at his tent set up within the zone. "It was supposed to be just cars and now we occupy it, we have a study area for students in the middle of the highway, people here they care about each other."

The workers were carrying out a court restraining order calling for barriers to be dismantled and obstructions removed from three sections of the protest site. Police then plan to move in to clear other blocked sections of road so that traffic can start flowing again.

The operation will be under close scrutiny with a group of about 30 academics monitoring the operation, along with the Independent Police Complaints Council and human rights groups.

The sprawling encampment in Hong Kong's Admiralty section, on the edge of the financial district, has been the focal point for the protesters, who have occupied the site for 75 days. As the clear out neared, protesters chanted "I want universal suffrage" and threw pieces of paper that read "We will be back."

On Sept. 28 police fired dozens of tear gas rounds at thousands of protesters gathering in the area angry over the prolonged detention of a student leader. The move infuriated protesters and the wider public and kick-started the student-led protest movement, which came to include two other protest sites in Hong Kong.

AP

Workers clear barricades at an occupied area in Mong Kok district of Hong Kong Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014.

Over the past 2 1/2 months, police say 655 people have been arrested, and 129 officers injured. They have given no overall injury toll.

A separate court order led to the clearing of the Mong Kok protest site in late November. The operation and ensuing nighttime clashes in the gritty neighborhood's surrounding streets resulted in about 160 arrests.

On the eve of the action to clear the area, thousands of protesters and supporters streamed into the site for a last night of what's come to be known as the "Umbrella Movement," named for the pro-democracy protesters' preferred method of deflecting police pepper spray.

Two student groups that played key roles in organizing the protests had called for supporters to stay until the last moment, but not to resist authorities.

"If the government wants to use police to clear the site, don't forget, the clearance can't resolve political conflicts, it can't resolve society's dilemma," said Joshua Wong, the 18-year-old head of the Scholarism group and the pro-democracy movement's most prominent leader.

Japan woman charged in 1 of 6 ex-partner deaths

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese prosecutors charged a 68-year-old woman with murder Wednesday, weeks after she was arrested on suspicion of poisoning her husband, one of at least six men who have died while in a relationship with her over the past 20 years.

Chisako Kakehi has denied responsibility for the deaths.

Kyoto district prosecutors indicted Kakehi in the death of her 75-year-old husband, Isao, according to NHK public television. He died in December 2013, a month after they married. Police found cyanide in his body and arrested Kakehi last month.

Kyodo News agency said investigators found traces of cyanide in a small packet buried in dirt in a plant pot that Kakehi had attempted to throw away, but have not determined if or how she obtained the poison.

Police have said they suspect insurance claims or inheritance money could be the motive in the killings. Other cases are still under investigation. Cyanide was also found in the blood of a 71-year-old partner who died in 2012—a death initially attributed to heart failure.

Kakehi reportedly married at least three times and had relationships with three other men who died. All died within a few years of starting relationships with her, all in western Japan.

Phone calls to the prosecutors' office were not answered late Wednesday.

Pakistani family slaughtered in honor killing

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani police Wednesday were looking for four men believed to have killed a couple and their four children as retribution for a perceived "honor crime."

Police officer Mohammed Aslam said the killings happened Tuesday in the town of Athara Hazari in central Pakistan.

Aslam said the men are believed to have hacked the family to death with axes and knives. One daughter, identified by police as Aisha, survived and relayed what happened to authorities. She and the other bodies were found after a man delivering milk to the house noticed that no one was coming to the door, Aslam said.

Aisha told authorities the killings stemmed from her mother's first marriage nearly 30 years ago to another man, Aslam said.

Another police officer, Mian Mohammad, said Ghulam Fatima's son from her first marriage visited the family a few days ago. He was joined on Tuesday by three more men, who the police say helped him with the crime.

The surviving daughter told authorities that the son said he was taking revenge on her for leaving her first husband.

"It is an incident of honor killing," said Mohammad.

In Pakistan, leaving one's husband or marrying against a family's wishes is extremely rare. Such actions are often perceived as crimes against the family's honor and the woman can be killed in order to restore the family's reputation.

Such retribution can be carried out years, even decades later. The killings are rarely prosecuted.

SKorea to take over search after fishing disaster

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—South Korean officials are expected to take over on-scene control of search efforts following the deadly sinking of a fishing vessel in the western Bering Sea last month.

The U.S. Coast Guard has been overseeing the effort with the cutter Alex Haley on site. But with the scheduled arrival of the South Korean vessel Sambong this weekend, the Coast Guard plans to take on a role of search and rescue planning, Rear Adm. Dan Abel, commander of the Coast Guard in Alaska, said on Wednesday.

Abel said two South Korean aircraft will be based out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage as part of the response. There are daily briefings on the matter, as well.

Moon Duk-ho, consul general for the republic of Korea in Seattle, was scheduled to tour the Coast Guard command center and get an update on the agency's response Wednesday, but his plane was unable to land in Juneau, due to foggy conditions.

Seven people survived the sinking of the Oryong 501, which occurred in Russian waters but was close enough to a boundary line that the Coast Guard was allowed to respond.

Abel said the remains of 27 people have been recovered. Another 26 remain unaccounted for, he said.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Office,
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

December 12, 2014

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. CUC	11/07/2014 SMS-2014-X-054	Geo Thermal	Gualo Rai	Major Siting	Certified Complete (12/04/2014)
2. Department of Public Works	11/26/2014 TMS-2014-X-058	Tinian Municipal Transfer Station	Tinian	Major Siting	Under Review
3. HPIL	11/26/2014 SSm-2014-X-059	Archaeological Trenching	San Antonio	Shoreline APC	Approved (12/09/2014)*
4. Marianas Acquisition Corp	12/02/2014 SPIm-2014-X-060	Fence Replacement	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (12/03/2014)*
5. Marianas Trekking Corp	12/04/2014 SLRm-2014-X-061	Non Motorized Marine Sports	Managaha	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review
6. DTC Saipan	12/02/2014 SSm-2014-X-062	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (12/03/2014)*
7. Songbird Aviation	12/04/2014 SSm-2014-X-063	Air Park	Marpi	Shoreline APC	Under Review
8. CUC	12/09/2014 SPIm-2014-X-064	Storage Facility	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial APC	Under Review

Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

World

A climate idea comes of age: Zero emissions

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Pulling a worn, yellowed copy of the 1992 U.N. climate change convention from her handbag, Farhana Yamin points to the paragraph that states its goal: To stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous warming.

It doesn't provide any guidance on how to do that.

But Yamin does. And, in a historic first, dozens of governments now embrace her prescription. The global climate pact set for adoption in Paris next year should phase out greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, says the London-based environmental lawyer.

"In your lifetime, emissions have to go to zero. That's a message people understand," said the Pakistani-born Yamin, who has been instrumental in getting that ambitious, some say crucial, goal into drafts being discussed at U.N. talks in Lima this week.

Indeed, it was a demand of many of the roughly 8,000 people, including Andean and Amazon natives who say they already feel global warming's impact, who marched through downtown Lima Wednesday demanding "climate justice."

Since Yamin launched the idea in 2013, it has exploded. Papers have been written, seminars held. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, environmental groups and celebrities including Leonardo DiCaprio have backed variations.

Critics call the idea unrealistic because it restricts us to two hard options. Either we abandon fossil fuels, our main current source both of energy and greenhouse gas pollution, or we find ways to capture emissions from coal, oil and gas and bury them underground.

The first would require a tectonic shift to renewable energy. The second would mean rapid deployment of expensive technologies yet to be tested at scale.

This would need to happen within decades, even as the developing world's energy needs grow rapidly.

"I do not think this is realistic when 2 billion people do not have access to energy," said Saudi Arabia's chief negotiator in Lima, Khalid Abuleif. "Concepts like zero emissions ... aren't really helping the process."

Yamin is a veteran of the U.N. climate talks—these are their 20th iteration. She has been "island hopping" throughout, advising a range of small island states that fear being swallowed by the rise in sea levels scientists attribute to global warming.

In Lima, she is an adviser for the Marshall Islands. She has also worked for the European Union.

While scientists have long said the greenhouse gas emissions blamed for global warming need to be phased out, the overarching goal of U.N. climate negotiations is to stabilize those gases at a level that keeps warming below 2 degrees C (3.6 F), compared with pre-industrial times.

It was Yamin who urged that an emissions phase-out by mid-century be incorporated in the Paris deal, whose focus is on more near-term emissions cuts beginning in 2020.

Malala's moment: Nobel winner speaks out

OSLO, Norway (AP)—The Pakistani teenager stood on the stage of Oslo City Hall as the youngest Nobel Peace laureate, smiling as she listened to the thunderous ovation.

Now, everybody knows: She is Malala.

Shot in the head by the Taliban two years ago for speaking out on education, 17-year-old Malala Yousafzai on Wednesday beamed as she received the Nobel Peace Prize and taught a lesson in courage.

"I had two options. One was to remain silent and wait to be killed. And the second was to speak up and then be killed. I chose the second one. I decided to speak up," Malala said.

And with that, Malala proved that teenagers could tell the elders a thing or two. Anyone who hadn't read her memoir, "I am Malala," was about to get an education.

She adjusted her coral pink headscarf and made no effort to hide any scars that might remain from the attack. She thanked her parents for unconditional love and then humbly suggested that she was somehow not all that special—just a girl who fights with her brothers who wanted to learn above all else.

"As far as I know, I am just a committed and even stubborn person who wants to see every child getting quality education, who wants to see women having equal rights and who wants peace in every corner of the world," she said. "Education is one of the blessings of life, and one of its necessities."

Malala shared the prize with Kailash Satyarthi of India. Both have campaigned for the rights of children and young people, particularly education.

AP

Nobel Peace Prize winners Malala Yousafzai from Pakistan, front, and Kailash Satyarthi of India are awarded their Nobel Peace Prize during the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony in Oslo, Norway, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014.

The two laureates bonded immediately. They share a hard-won understanding among those activists who have suffered much, but there is also warmth and commitment to the future. Satyarthi looked on approvingly as she spoke, and has volunteered to be her second father.

But in so many ways, it was Malala's moment. Even an asylum seeker from Mexico rushing on stage left her unperturbed.

She has used her time in the spotlight to offer hope that her prize will inspire young girls all over the world to fight for their rights—and to step forward to lead.

In an interview with The Associated Press, she played on the theme of a global sisterhood of sorts, with women gathering the strength to fight for education, the key to a future.

Off The Wall

Man gets stolen gun back after 37 yrs.

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Richard Pittenger was 16 years old and taking a girl out on a date when he walked out of a Utah restaurant in November 1977 to find the window of his truck smashed and his shotgun missing.

Decades later, the Salt Lake City man got the weapon back Wednesday after it turned up at a sporting goods store in Albany, Oregon, and a serial number search showed it was stolen.

Salt Lake City police Det. Rod Van Scoy said he wasn't sure how to track down the owner, but he dug through old reports kept on microfilm and found Pittenger's mother.

Now 53, Pittenger said he was a little nervous when he got a message from the detective a few weeks ago saying he wanted to talk. Though he's glad to have the gun back, he's not sure what he'll do with it.

"I don't know the history of it. I don't know if it was used to hurt someone over the years," he said. His father took him to buy the 20-gauge shotgun, and Pittenger used it to hunt rabbits with his friends.

AP

Richard Pittenger, the Utah man who filed a stolen property report on his 20-gauge shotgun 37 years ago, stands holding it with Salt Lake City Police Detectives Rod Van Scoy, center and Cody Lougy, right, after it was returned at the Public Safety Building Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014, in Salt Lake City.

He said seeing it again brings back memories of his teenage years, when he was learning to play rock music and performing with bands for the first time. Music has become a focus for him again, as he's spent the last six years composing a rock opera.

"I wish they could return my youth rather than just the gun," he said with a smile.

He bought a new gun to replace the stolen one. His hobbies eventually changed, and he didn't think of the gun much, but the break-in stuck with him.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Washington baby tips scales at nearly 15 pounds

ABERDEEN, Wash. (AP)—A hospital in Washington says a woman gave birth this month a baby weighing nearly 15 pounds. Grays Harbor Community Hospital says the average newborn weighs about 7 1/2 pounds at birth. Yessica Ortiz Delgado delivered a boy named Francisco Leon Ortiz who weighed 14 pounds and 11 ounces. Delgado's two other children were about 12 pounds each at birth but the mother didn't expect her newest to be so large. Both mother and son are doing well.

Owner reclaims sheep wearing holiday sweater

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—A sheep wearing a festive red-and-green sweater who was found wandering around Omaha has been reunited with his owner. Owner Margaret Vazquez tells KMTV she initially panicked when the sheep named Gage went missing. She says the sheep "follows me everywhere." Nebraska Humane Society spokeswoman Pam Wiese says the sheep was reclaimed Tuesday evening. The Humane Society was caring for Gage after he was found Sunday evening in an Omaha neighborhood. Gage shares a shed with two chickens, when he isn't in his owner's house. Gage is used to walking on a leash and doesn't seem to mind that the holiday apparel he donned appears to have been designed for a dog. Vazquez says it was the first time Gage has escaped and now will spend more time indoors.

Calves spill onto Florida highway after crash

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP)—A tractor-trailer carrying 130 calves overturned along the Florida Turnpike, but police have traffic going once again. Numerous calves spilled out of the semi and were loose on both sides of the highway about 2:30 a.m. Wednesday. Animal control officials from Osceola County helped herd the cattle and the owner of the tractor-trailer sent another truck to haul the calves away. Troopers estimate around half the calves were killed. The Florida Highway Patrol says a second crash involving three tractor-trailers and a car created additional traffic problems. About an hour later, a Fed-Ex truck failed to slow down as it approached the stopped traffic and collided with another tractor-trailer. Seven people were hurt. None of their injuries was life-threatening.

Man gets trapped in wall of Denver restaurant

DENVER (AP)—Police say a man who was living in the rafters above a Denver restaurant crashed through the ceiling, triggered a flood and got trapped in a wall. Officers responded to a report of a man falling through the ceiling at the Yard House late Tuesday night. They saw a man walking around the scaffolding and then disappear. A water pipe in the ceiling ruptured, flooding the restaurant and the adjoining lobby of the Sheraton Hotel. About three hours later, officers heard moaning coming from near the restaurant's entrance. They pulled back some booth chairs and saw the man's feet sticking out of the wall. Firefighters used a chain saw to cut him out. The man, who was taken to the hospital, is facing charges for damage to the restaurant.

Police: Students stole fraternity's chicken, ate it

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—University of Vermont Police say three students are accused of stealing a chicken from a Burlington fraternity house, killing it and eating it at a dormitory. The Chittenden County prosecutor says he has declined to prosecute the students and all three cases have been referred to a reparative justice board. Police said they received a report of trespassing and larceny on Sunday at a private residence where members of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity live. The president of the fraternity, which is for those interested in agriculture or food industries, said they have decided not to pursue charges. Police say they don't know the motive for the theft.

Science & Technology

The mystery of where Earth's water came from deepens

WASHINGTON (AP)—The mystery of where Earth's water came from got murkier Wednesday when some astronomers essentially eliminated one of the chief suspects: comets.

Over the past few months, the European Space Agency's Rosetta space probe closely examined the type of comet that some scientists theorized could have brought water to our planet 4 billion years ago. It found water, but the wrong kind.

It was too heavy. One of the first scientific studies from the Rosetta mission found that the comet's water contains more of a hydrogen isotope called deuterium than water on Earth does.

"The question is who brought this water: Was it comets or was it something else?" asked Kathrin Altwegg of the University of Bern in Switzerland, lead author of a study published in the journal Science.

Something else, probably asteroids, Altwegg concluded. But others disagree.

Many scientists have long believed that Earth had water when it first formed, but that it boiled off, so that the water on the planet now had to have come from an outside source.

The findings from Rosetta's mission to the duck-shaped comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko complicate not just the question of the origin of Earth's water but our understanding of comets.

Until now, scientists pretty much sorted comets into two types: near and far. The near ones, sometimes called the Jupiter family, originally come from the Kuiper Belt outside Neptune and Pluto. The far ones hail from the Oort Cloud, which is much farther out.

In 1986, a spacecraft came within about 400 miles of Halley's comet, an Oort Cloud comet, and analyzed its water. It proved to be heavier than Earth's. But three years ago, scientists examined the water in a Kuiper Belt comet, Hartley 2, and it was a perfect match for Earth's, so the comet theory was back, stronger than ever, Altwegg said.

The comet visited by Rosetta is a Kuiper Belt comet, but its water was even heavier than Halley's, Altwegg said. That shows that Kuiper Belt comets aren't as uniform as thought, and it once again complicates the issue of Earth's water.

"That probably rules out Kuiper Belt comets from bringing water to Earth," she said.

University of Maryland astronomer Michael A'Hearn, who wasn't part of the research, called the results startling but said they don't eliminate comets altogether. The water could have come from other types of Kuiper Belt comets, he said.

NASA Near Earth Object program manager Donald Yeomans, however, said the study does pretty much rule out comets.

Sweden targets Pirate Bay again after complaint

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Swedish police have raided a server room in Stockholm in an action targeting the file-sharing website The Pirate Bay.

Police spokesman Paul Pinder said Wednesday the raid took place after Rights Alliance, a Swedish Internet anti-piracy group, had reported Pirate Bay for alleged copyright violations. He declined to give further details.

He said the file-sharing website went down shortly after Tuesday's raid.

On its website, Rights Alliance head Sara Lindback said Pirate Bay is "an illegal commercial service" making "considerable earnings by infringing the works of others."

Pirate Bay is one of the world's biggest free file-sharing websites offers millions of users a forum for downloading music, movies and computer games. The entertainment industry has failed to shut it down, even after its operators were convicted of copyright violations.

TECH Q&A

Silencing Web ads that play automatically

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: What can I do about random audio advertisements that I've been receiving on my computer for several months? At first, I just pressed the mute button. But then I began to worry that my PC was infected with malicious software. So I ran security programs from Malwarebytes, Kaspersky Lab and Norton, but they didn't eliminate the ads. Has my PC been compromised in any way?––Sherry Lampman, St. Paul

A: I doubt it. Because you've tried security programs without success, I think your problem is not malicious software but an unorthodox advertising technique used by some of the websites you visit. The audio or video ads you hear are set to begin playing as soon as one of those Web pages loads in your browser.

While some might argue that this advertising strategy is no more invasive than a website print ad that pops up unannounced, I think audio and video ads that play automatically are less acceptable. While you can click out of a print ad, it's unclear to most people how to turn off an audio or video advertisement.

Why do some websites use this technique? Because some advertisers request it, in the belief more people will listen to an auto-play ad than will voluntarily click on the ad to hear it.

Fortunately, you can change your browser settings to stop audio and video advertising from playing automatically. To alter the settings in the Microsoft Internet Explorer, Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox browsers, see tinyurl.com/l5vmbjp.

Q: I've used a Dell 926 printer with my Windows Vista 64-bit PC for three years. But after a recent Windows Vista update, I get the error message "communication not available" from the printer. I know the printer is working, because it still prints for my Windows 8.1 laptop and its scanner function works with both computers. I've tried unplugging the cables, disconnecting the power and restarting the PC and printer, but nothing works. What can I do?––Jim Carbonneau, Lakeland, Fla.

A: Your problem could be caused by the printer driver software you're using or by some other damage done by the Windows Vista update. Try downloading the 64-bit driver software for your printer at tinyurl.com/o2f97yc. If your existing driver is outdated or was damaged by the Vista update, this should fix the problem.

If that doesn't work, trying using System Restore to return your PC's settings to the way they were before the update. For details, see the explanation and video at tinyurl.com/2bdvvv. Use "Method One" and choose a restore date before the Vista update.

Note: System Restore will erase not only the Vista update, but any software you've installed since the date to which you restore the PC. Your data won't be affected.

You can prevent future Vista update problems by changing the updates from automatic to optional (see video at tinyurl.com/o8g5fq8.) Only install updates listed as critical.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†MARIA VILLAGOMEZ PANGELINAN

Lovingly known as "Marian Dabid"

Born on May 6, 1944 and was called to her eternal rest on December 4, 2014 at age 70.

In her new life, she now joins her:

Father: †Felix Cruz Villagomez
Mother: †Cresencia Borja Villagomez
Ex-Husband: †David Edward Pangelinan
Daughter: †Jeanette Villagomez Pangelinan

She is survived by her Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren:

- Steven Pangelinan & Gina Cabrera (Ashley, Steven Jr.)
- Jane & Dionicio Lizama (Janel/Christopher [Bethany, Brooke, Britney, Brianna], Jennifer [Damien Edward], Jackelyn, David, Dionicio Jr., Antonia)
- Maryann & Tony Morrison

Brothers & Sisters:
Jose & Victoria Villagomez, Antonio & Rosa Villagomez, Marina & †Abel Atalig, Manuel & Patricia Villagomez, Bernadita & Ramon Manahane, Ricardo & †Verna Villagomez, †Freddy Villagomez, Engracia & †Antonio Aldan, Elizabeth & Roberto Manalo, Jacinta & †Manuel DeGracia, Ramon Villagomez, †Felix & †Eufrisa Villagomez, Lucia & Jose Sablan

Mass of Intention is being offered nightly at Santa Soledad Church at 6:00pm followed by rosary. The late Maria Pangelinan's body will depart Borja Funeral Home on December 15, 2014 at 7:30am and will proceed to Mount Carmel Cathedral.
Last respects will be held from 8:30 to 10:30am.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am, and she will be laid to rest at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery thereafter.

Your thoughts, prayers, and presence are greatly appreciated,

From the Family

Life & Style

Kirk and Anne Douglas reflect on 60-year romance

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Kirk Douglas is done with writing.

The rakish screen legend with the famously dimpled chin made that abundantly clear on a recent afternoon at his Beverly Hills home, a few days before the release of his poetry collection "Life Could Be Verse: Reflections on Love, Loss, and What Really Matters."

"To me, this is my best book, and my last book," said Douglas, seated next to Anne Douglas, his wife of over 60 years.

It was a pronouncement that came up more than a few times. The "Spartacus" star, who just turned 98, has 87 films to his name, 11 books, and is one of the last living members of old Hollywood. By now, the world probably thinks it knows Kirk Douglas.

But in some ways, "Life Could Be Verse" is his most personal work, featuring poems from throughout his life along with essays and private family photos that help paint a picture of Douglas as a man, a father and a husband.

In an industry not known for domestic stability, Kirk and Anne Douglas may be one of the great Hollywood romances. Seated closely on a cozy couch in a home that is elegant, modest and lived-in, the couple recalled their first meeting in Paris. He was working on the film "Act of Love." She was the publicist.

"I thought she was so beautiful, and I lowered my voice and said, 'Would you like to have dinner?'" he said. "I waited for an answer and she said, `No, I think I will go home and make some eggs and go to bed.'"

Anne Douglas (then Buydens) had her own thoughts about transient movie stars. A lot of her friends were going out with actors at the time. "I said to myself, I'm not going to do that. I will work and I will do my work for the movie that I was hired for, but no intimate connection with the movie stars," she said.

Then she attended a charity event where actors played the parts of circus performers. Kirk Douglas, sporting a tuxedo, decided his talent would be cleaning up after the elephants.

"I held on until he picked up the elephant doo," she said, laughing heartily. "That did it for me."

Douglas, not missing a beat, chimed in: "Obviously she was looking for a garbage collector."

Still, a cute beginning is hardly noteworthy. Longevity is. "Romance begins at 80, and I ought to know," he said, referencing one of his poems.

"I'm a romantic guy. You think I'm always shooting guns with John Wayne, but I can be romantic. And, listen, we're sitting here. We have been married for 60 years. A few poems help."

Romance is just one of their secrets. Over the years, they have devoted themselves to philanthropy. The shared passion has been important for the couple, who've endured tragedy and loss, including his stroke in 1996 and the death of their youngest son, Eric Douglas, in 2004.

"Our goal has been, since we're able to do that, to help a little bit and to share what you have with those in need. That has been a very big bond between us," said Anne Douglas.

AP

In this Friday, Dec. 5, 2014 photo, Kirk Douglas, right, and wife Anne Douglas pose for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif.

They've sold art from their personal collection to help fund various causes, including the restoration of over 400 playgrounds in the Los Angeles area and the development of a shelter for homeless women downtown. In 2012, the couple pledged $50 million to five charitable organizations.

Giving has been in Kirk Douglas' bones since childhood. "I was a boy who didn't have enough to eat. I had six sisters, no brothers. We were living by the railroad tracks and every night, hobos would come and knock on the door. And even though we didn't have enough, my mother always saved something so when they came to the door, she had something to give them. She taught me at an early age to help other people."

His career is pointedly on the back burner as he reflects on his life. A rebel on the screen and off, he counts crediting blacklisted screenwriter Dalton Trumbo on "Spartacus" as his most rebellious move. "I was much younger then, and I was much more stubborn," he said.

Now, Kirk and Anne Douglas are focused on their home, family and reflecting on a life well-lived. They recently hosted Thanksgiving at their home near Santa Barbara. Among the 14 attendees were Michael Douglas, his children and Michael Douglas' mother, actress Diana Dill, whom Anne Douglas refers to as "our ex-wife."

"We are living in a town of make-believe. I have done about 90 movies. That means that every time I was pretending to be someone else. There comes a time in your life when you say, well, `who am I?'" he said. "I have found writing books a good substitute to making pictures. When you write a book, you get to determine what part you are playing."

REGAL CINEMAS
Bargain Shows ( ) ★Pass/Discount Restrictions Apply

SAIPAN MEGAPLEX 7
Near Joeten Superstore in San Jose MP

ANNIE [CC,DV] (PG) Thu.600 PM
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB [CC,DV] (PG) Thu.700 PM
HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES [CC,DV] (PG-13) Wed. - Thu.(400 PM)
HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) Tue.700 PM Wed. - Thu.715 PM
HOBBIT MARATHON 3D [2014] [CC,DV] (PG-13) Mon.100 PM
EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri.1015 PM Sat.(1230 PM) 1015 PM Sun.(1230 PM) Mon.(430 PM) Tue. - Thu.(405 PM)
EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sun.(345 PM) 700 PM Mon.(115 PM) 745 PM Tue. - Thu.730 PM
HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 [CC,DV] (R) Fri.(410 PM) 720 PM 1020 PM Sat. - Mon.(130 PM 410 PM) 720 PM Tue. - Wed.(410 PM) 720 PM Thu.(410 PM)
THE PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR [CC,DV] (PG) Fri.710 PM 930 PM Sat.(440 PM) 710 PM Sun. - Mon.(220 PM) 710 PM Tue. - Thu.710 PM
THE PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR 3D [CC,DV] (PG) Fri.(440 PM) Sat.(220 PM) 930 PM Sun. - Thu.(440 PM)
HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY, PART 1 [CC,DV] Fri.(415 PM) 705 PM 1000 PM Sat.(110 415) 705 1000 Sun. - Mon.(110 PM 415 PM) 705 PM Tue. - Thu.(415 PM) 705 PM
DUMB AND DUMBER TO [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri.(420 PM) 715 PM 1005 PM Sat.(125 420) 715 1005 Sun.(125 PM 420 PM) 715 PM Tue.(420 PM)
BIG HERO 6 [CC,DV] (PG) Fri. - Sat.(425 PM) 955 PM Sun. - Thu.(425 PM)
BIG HERO 6 3D [CC,DV] (PG) Fri.725 PM Sat. - Mon.(135 PM) 725 PM Tue. - Thu.725 PM
INTERSTELLAR [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri.(400 PM) 700 PM 940 PM Sat.(1245 400) 700 940 Sun. - Mon.(1245 PM 400 PM) 700 PM Tue. - Wed.(400 PM) 700 PM

Times For 12/12 - 12/18 www.REGmovies.com

Woman files defamation lawsuit against Bill Cosby

BOSTON (AP)—A woman who has accused Bill Cosby of sexually assaulting her in the 1970s filed a defamation lawsuit against him Wednesday, alleging he "publicly branded" her a liar through statements made by his lawyer and publicist.

Tamara Green said in the lawsuit, filed in federal court in Springfield, that Cosby drugged and assaulted her when she was an aspiring model and singer. She said Wednesday she hoped the lawsuit would help her establish the truth about what happened.

Green first spoke publicly about the alleged attack in 2005. After she did media interviews, Cosby's lawyer and publicist made statements intended to expose her to public contempt and ridicule, she said in her lawsuit.

The attorney, Walter M. Phillips Jr., said he represented Cosby in 2005 but no longer does, and he declined to comment further. Messages left for the publicist, David Brokaw, weren't immediately returned.

Cosby, who has a home in Shelburne Falls, is the lawsuit's only defendant. He has never been charged in connection with any sexual assault allegations.

In 2005, he settled a civil case filed by Andrea Constand, a former employee at Temple University in Philadelphia. Green was one of a dozen women prepared to testify in Constand's lawsuit that Cosby sexually assaulted them.

Cosby, through his representatives, has denied renewed allegations by women alleging decades-old assaults.

Green's attorney, Joseph Cammarata, held a news conference in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, and Green appeared via video. Green said it was important for her to prove she's not lying because "there's always been a slight doubt in everyone's mind as to the veracity of any of the allegations."

"So this will give me and other women ... a chance to go to a forum where we will speak our stories and tell our truth," she said. "And the most important thing is that Bill Cosby will be required to appear in court and to speak, and he will finally be heard."

Cammarata said the criminal statute of limitations has expired for Green and Cosby's other accusers. He said he has another client who likely will join the lawsuit, which seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

Los Angeles attorney Martin Singer, who has represented Cosby in the recent round of allegations, said of Green's lawsuit: "We are very confident that we will prevail in this proceeding and we will pursue claims against the attorneys who filed this action."

Green's lawsuit says that after she met Cosby through a mutual friend in 1969 or 1970 he asked for her to raise money from investors for a club he wanted to open.

She said she called Cosby one day in the early 1970s to tell him she wasn't feeling well. Her lawsuit says Cosby then invited her to meet him for lunch at a Los Angeles restaurant.

Mark Wahlberg acknowledges varied opinions about pardon

NEW YORK (AP)—Since it was revealed Mark Wahlberg is seeking a pardon in Massachusetts for assaults he committed as a teen, the actor is well aware that the court of public opinion has weighed in on why he wants one and whether he deserves it.

Wahlberg

"Everyone has an opinion and has a reason why they think I'm doing it," said the actor Wednesday at the New York premiere of his new movie "The Gambler," opening Dec. 25.

"I've been working very hard to correct a lot of mistakes that I made since the day that I woke up and realized, 'You know what? I need to be a leader instead of a follower,'" he said.

A document was filed Nov. 26 requesting the pardon. It states in 1988, when Wahlberg was 16, he hit a man in the head with a wooden stick while trying to steal two cases of alcohol in front of a convenience store near his family's home in the Dorchester section of Boston. He punched another man in the face while trying to avoid police.

Wahlberg admits in the application that he was high on marijuana and narcotics at the time.

He ended up being convicted as an adult of assault and other charges, and he was sentenced to three months in jail. He said he was released after serving about 45 days.

Wahlberg, 43, who went on to be a rapper and then A-list actor who's been nominated for an Oscar, said he isn't trying to use his public persona to sway the decision.

‘Boyhood,’ ‘Birdman’ to vie for Golden Globe noms

NEW YORK (AP)—Revelers in Hollywood’s quickening awards season will be pushed to two sides of the dance floor in Thursday’s Golden Globes nominations: drama and comedy.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association’s way of dividing the movie world in half should result in some extra love for funnier films often edged out by their more serious brethren. Expect the likes of Wes Anderson’s “Grand Budapest Hotel,” the Disney musical “Into the Woods” and Bill Murray’s “St. Vincent” to find room among this season’s favorites such as “Boyhood,” ‘’Birdman,” ‘’Selma” and “The Imitation Game.”

The drama-comedy separation isn’t always clean (the black-and-white yuckfest “Nebraska” somehow squeaked into comedy last year), but the Globes’ embrace of comedy (along with hosts Tina Fey and Amy Poehler) has often made for a livelier mix.

The 72nd annual Golden Globe Awards will be announced Thursday morning the approximately 8:20 a.m. EST. The nominations will be streamed live from the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California, on GoldenGlobes.com, with top categories also carried live by NBC’s “Today.” Kate Beckinsale, Jeremy Piven, Paula Patton and Peter Krause will be on hand to read the nominees.

For the third time in a row, the Globes telecast will be hosted by Fey and Poehler. The show will air live from the Beverly Hilton on Sunday, Jan. 11. Last year’s awards drew 20.9 million viewers, marking it the most-watched Globes since 2004.

The Hollywood Foreign Press, a collection of about 85 largely freelance journalists, is known for their occasionally curious picks and their penchant for finding reason to honor big-name celebrities. So some curveballs will likely be tossed Thursday, though their influence on the larger Oscar race will be less certain.

Thus far, Richard Linklater’s long-in-the-making coming-of-age drama “Boyhood” has emerged as the awards season favorite, taking top honors from the New York Film Critics Circle and the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. But support is also strong for the Michael Keaton-led “Birdman” (which topped the Gotham Independent Awards), the civil rights drama “Selma,” the World War II code-breaker tale “The Imitation Game” and the Stephen Hawking biopic “The Theory of Everything.”

On Wednesday, the Screen Actors Guild—a strong predictor of the Academy Awards since its memberships overlap a lot—nominated the ensemble casts of “Birdman,” ‘’Boyhood,” ‘’The Imitation Game,” ‘’The Theory of Everything” and “Grand Budapest Hotel.”

Last year, the Globes chose the eventual Academy Awards best-picture winner, “12 Years a Slave,” as its best drama. Best comedy or musical went to “American Hustle.”

Estates put claims on lost letter to Jack Kerouac

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Plans to auction the lost letter that inspired Jack Kerouac to turn “On The Road” into a literary classic have been put on hold after the estates of Kerouac and the letter’s author, Neal Cassady, made separate ownership claims to the 16,000-word missive.

Profiles in History spokeswoman Sabrina Propper said Wednesday the auction house’s Dec. 17 sale has been “postponed indefinitely.”

She declined to elaborate but the San Francisco Chronicle quoted Kerouac estate attorney Nick Mitrokostas as saying the estate believes the letter is its property.

Cassady’s daughter Jami Cassady told The Associated Press her family believes it holds the copyright to the words in the letter and would like to eventually publish them.

She said both estates are filing court motions but a hearing is yet to be scheduled.

Kerouac said the correspondence, nicknamed “The Joan Anderson Letter,” inspired him to scrap an early version of “On The Road” and rewrite it in three weeks in his friend’s fast-paced, stream-of-consciousness style. He called the letter “the greatest piece of writing I ever saw,” adding had it not been lost it would have transformed his friend and literary muse into a major literary figure himself.

Kerouac scholars have for decades considered it a key missing link in the author’s legacy.

It was found by LA performance artist Jean Spinosa as she went through her late father’s belongings.

“We want to be nice to Jeannie. We don’t want to cut her out of anything,” Jami Cassady said Wednesday, adding the estate has no problem with her selling the physical letter.

Kerouac believed it had been dropped off a houseboat in Sausalito, California, in 1955 after poet Allen Ginsberg sent it to a literary agent in hopes of having it published.

The former agent, Gerd Stern, always denied losing the letter.

“After 50 years, it’s a blessing to be vindicated,” he told the AP last month after it surfaced.

‘Next Top Model’ contestant sues Tyra Banks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former “America’s Next Top Model” contestant is suing Tyra Banks for $3 million, saying she was improperly denied a top prize because she used to be an escort.

City News Service says Angelea Preston filed the breach-of-contract suit Wednesday in Los Angeles Superior Court.

It names Banks, who is the show’s executive producer, and The CW network.

The lawsuit says Preston won the show’s Cycle 17 in 2011 and was entitled to a package that included a $100,000 contract with CoverGirl cosmetics and a magazine fashion spread.

Preston says she was wrongly disqualified because she had worked as an escort before taking part in the show.

Messages to an attorney and a manager for Banks weren’t immediately returned.

LA man charged with killing ex-lover’s pet rabbit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A TV and video game actor was charged with killing and cooking his ex-girlfriend’s pet rabbit, sending her grisly photos of the procedure and threatening to do the same thing to her, authorities said Wednesday.

Diatchenko

Dimitri Diatchenko, 46, of North Hollywood, was charged Tuesday with felony counts of cruelty to an animal with use of a knife and making criminal threats.

He faces up to four years and eight months in prison if convicted.

Diatchenko was free on bail. His manager, Barry Bookin, declined comment.

According to Los Angeles County prosecutors, Diatchenko had been living with the woman for some time after their romantic relationship had ended.

She told Diatchenko that they should stop being roommates, prosecutors said.

On Dec. 7, while she was out of the house, Diatchenko killed the rabbit, authorities said.

“Diatchenko skinned the pet, cooked it and ate half of it while sending her step-by-step pictures of what he did” according to a statement from the district attorney’s office. “When she returned the defendant allegedly told her he would do the same to her.”

Born in San Francisco, Diatchenko is an actor and musician. He mainly has played Russians and Eastern Europeans on television. He also had a small part in the movie “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.”

No interviews, coverage at ‘The Interview’ premiere

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There will be no interviews at the Hollywood premiere of “The Interview.”

Sony Pictures said Wednesday that no broadcast media will be invited to cover the film’s red carpet Thursday in Los Angeles and no interviews will be granted to print reporters at the screening.

The movie stars Seth Rogen and James Franco as a producer and television host tasked with assassinating North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

A Sony spokeswoman would not comment on the reason for the premiere’s coverage restrictions but they come in the wake of a massive cyberattack on Sony Pictures, including leaks of sensitive and embarrassing internal emails.

Some have speculated that North Korea was behind the attacks in retaliation for “The Interview,” which opens Christmas Day.

AP

This image released by Columbia Pictures shows James Franco, left, and Seth Rogen in “The Interview.” The comedy is set for release in 2014 on Christmas Day.

Mom recruits family to make holiday happy for a co-worker

DEAR ABBY: I work with a wonderful, good-hearted young woman who holds a low-paying job. She’s raising three children alone, and I know she struggles to provide the necessities. I have learned that the holidays at their home are pretty meager.

My husband and I have been discussing the many frivolous indulgences at our family Christmas and would like to suggest to our grown children that this year we pool our resources and send the money anonymously to this family a week or so before Christmas. Would it be rude to ask our kids for the money in advance? Unfortunately, there may be a couple who would prefer to receive gifts. How should we handle this?

TENNESSEE READER

DEAR READER: Your impulse is generous. Start now by telling your grown children, “You know, I’ve been thinking ...” then discuss what you’re considering and the reasons for it. Make participation in the project voluntary so that those who wish to can contribute the money they would have spent on gifts for you to the fund. Write (small) checks to those who would rather receive gifts than donate to your co-worker. You can’t “force” others to be generous, and frankly, you shouldn’t try.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When visiting friends I usually prefer to stay in a hotel, but my friend insisted I stay at her place so we could have more time to visit and make the most of our weekend together. On my last day, I woke up to find a note on my bedroom door instructing me how to clean the bedroom and bathroom in a specific manner before my departure.

I was mortified, not only by the request but by the way the note was written, requesting that I wipe down the shower walls and tub, and bag my trash. I complied with her request, but I wasn’t happy. I left the bathroom in a cleaner condition than it was when I arrived.

When I got home I sent my hostess a thank-you note for her hospitality. I haven’t spoken to her since.

Over the years, I have entertained many guests in my home. I have always provided them with meals, drinks, towels and a clean room. I have never left a note for anyone to clean. Is there a new etiquette policy for guests that I don’t know about?

STILL UPSET IN SEATTLE

DEAR STILL UPSET: I have never heard of any rule of etiquette that says this was OK. However, the night before you were scheduled to leave, you should have asked your hostess how she would like the room left.

I have “houseguested” in homes in which I was asked to strip the bed and leave my used towels in the laundry room when my visit was over. And as a polite guest, I happily complied. However, I have never been told to scrub a bathroom or been issued instructions on how to do it. If you choose to speak to this woman again, you have nothing to lose by telling her how you felt after reading her note—and I think you should.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

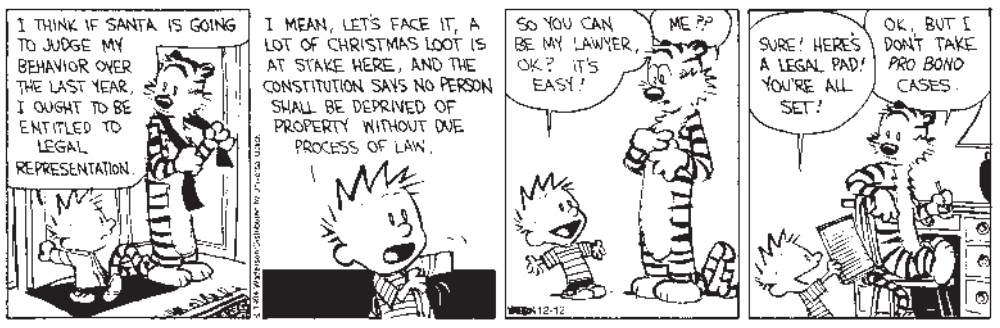
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I THINK IF SANTA IS GOING TO JUDGE MY BEHAVIOR OVER THE LAST YEAR, I OUGHT TO BE ENTITLED TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION.
I MEAN, LET'S FACE IT, A LOT OF CHRISTMAS LOOT IS AT STAKE HERE, AND THE CONSTITUTION SAYS NO PERSON SHALL BE DEPRIVED OF PROPERTY WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW.
SO YOU CAN BE MY LAWYER, OK? IT'S EASY!
ME??
SURE! HERE'S A LEGAL PAD! YOU'RE ALL SET!
OK, BUT I DON'T TAKE PRO BONO CASES.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

SIGH...I NEVER KNOW WHAT TO GET LIZ FOR CHRISTMAS, GARFIELD
LOOK, YOU BE HER, AND I'LL TRY SOME GIFT IDEAS OUT ON YOU
FINE
TEETH WHITENING STRIPS!
I THINK WE SHOULD SEE OTHER PEOPLE
JIM DAVIS 12-12

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY, LET'S SEE. I WANT A PONY. AND AN iPAD. AND A STUFFER.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA WRITE THIS DOWN?
DON'T NEED TO. I'M SANTA.
RIIIGHT. WELL, I BROUGHT YOU A DUPLICATE LIST AND A THUMB DRIVE WITH THE PERTINENT LINKS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I WANT A PAIR OF THOSE SHOES WITH LITTLE WHEELS ON THE BOTTOM, WITH PURPLE RACING STRIPES ON THE SIDE.
GEE. I DON'T KNOW... THOSE ARE REALLY HARD TO FIND THESE DAYS. I CAN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES.
TIPS!
WHAT SIZE?
12-12

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

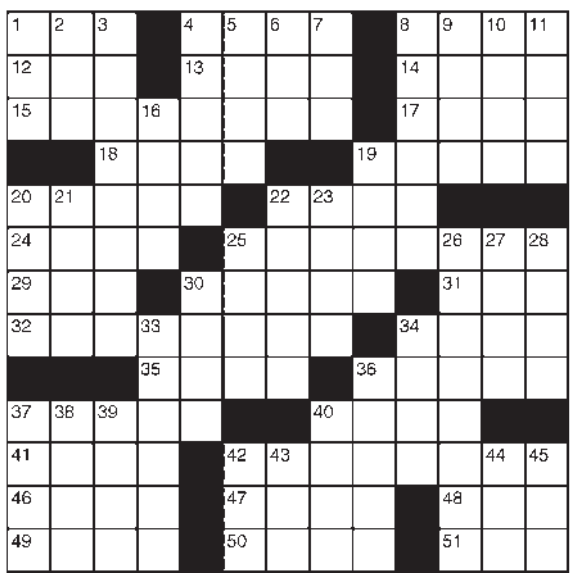
ACROSS
1 Sandwich meat
4 Rat's challenge
8 Pleads
12 Id counterpart
13 Talon
14 Between jobs
15 Homeowner's payment
17 Acute
18 Spud's buds
19 Reinforced, in a way
20 Incline
22 Emerald City visitor
24 Inlet
25 Actress Emily
29 Time of your life?
30 Long stories
31 Praise in verse
32 Casablanca denizen
34 Plumbing problem
35 Joel or Ethan of Hollywood
36 Singing ability (Sl.)
37 Get more magazines
40 Mediocre
41 Branch-leaf angle
42 Virtue
46 NFL Hall-of-Famer Marchetti
47 Microwave, e.g.
48 Ultramodern
49 Undo a dele
50 Test the waters
51 Wildebeest

DOWN
1 Height of fashion?
2 Back
3 And
4 "NCIS" techie
5 "Sad to say ..."
6 Sharp turn
7 Ram's mate
8 Revealing swimwear
9 Paradise
10 Merriment
11 Transmit
16 Work at the keyboard
19 Many, many
20 Hoodwink
21 Trademark symbol
22 Boston airport
23 Mideast nation
25 Spiked club
26 Transforming via CGI
27 Adams or Falco
28 Congress folks
30 Garbage barge
33 Feral feline
34 Use a rotary phone
36 Flat surface
37 Tatters
38 Egress
39 Baseball team
40 Raised
42 Do some yardwork
43 Eggs
44 X rating?
45 Second person

Solution time: 26 mins.

P	A	G	E	■	C	B	■	■	S	P	R	Y
E	G	O	S	■	N	J	N	■	T	R	E	E
C	R	O	C	■	A	S	S	■	C	P	S	■
S	A	F	A	R	I	■	T	E	M	P	■	■
■	■	■	P	A	R	C	E	L	P	O	S	T
R	E	S	E	W	■	H	A	M	■	S	E	E
A	C	H	E	■	B	E	D	■	R	A	G	E
S	H	Y	■	G	E	E	■	F	E	L	O	N
P	O	S	T	M	O	R	T	E	M	■	■	■
■	■	T	H	A	W	■	R	E	N	T	A	L
B	A	E	R	■	U	S	A	■	A	R	I	A
O	G	R	E	■	L	E	■	■	N	E	L	S
P	O	S	E	■	F	A	T	■	T	O	S	S

Yesterday's answer 12-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mayim Bialik, 39; Madchen Amick, 44; Jennifer Connelly, 44; Dionne Warwick, 74.

Happy Birthday: Don't falter now. You have to make things happen. Initiate the changes that will help you do and be your very best. There is little time for rest this year. Get into the fast lane and present and promote all the ideas and alternatives you have to offer. Market and make the most of whatever comes your way. Your numbers are 5, 12, 22, 30, 36, 39, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let anyone push you around in the workplace. Build strong alliances with key people and use your expertise to outdo whoever wants to challenge you. Speak openly, and you will impress someone looking for exactly what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Discretion will be key when it comes to your comings and goings. Arguments will erupt if you are too vocal, leaving you in a precarious position and behind schedule. Inward focus and self-sufficiency will be key if you want to advance. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Give more thought to the relationships you have with others. You can learn through sharing, but if you choose to let past emotional issues come between you and your aspirations, all will be lost. Put the past behind you and move forward gracefully. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Claim what's yours and don't look back. Take an unusual approach to what you want, using past experience and unorthodox methods to outsmart anyone chasing close behind you. Owning, presenting and pursuing your goals will lead to success. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't allow limitations and frustrations caused by others to slow you down. Initiate change with precision and determination. Take the role of a leader and delegate work to those you feel can help you reach your goals. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take a moment to consider how you will be affected mentally, emotionally and financially before you agree to something someone is trying to force on you. Joint ventures are not in your best interest. Disillusionment and deception are present. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Make travel plans or enjoy getting together with friends. The information you pick up will help you make a personal choice regarding someone you have worked with or dated in the past. Partnerships are changing and are best handled carefully. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Go over your past accomplishments and incorporate them into your resume. Beefing up your image will help push you into the running for a key position that allows you to make your mark. Don't be afraid to be unique and creative. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Show a little spirit and bravado. You will have big ideas and the energy and wherewithal to turn your dreams into a reality. Someone may try to dismantle your plans unscrupulously, so be on guard and protect your position. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Rapid change will have disadvantages. If you feel uncomfortable, it's best to take a pass. Hidden information is apparent and can upset a deal you are counting on. Pay close attention to detail and don't rely on others. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look for the perfect position, or make a point of partnering with someone who can complement what you have to offer. A change in the way you earn your living is apparent and looks not only beneficial but interesting as well. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Talk less and do more. Your actions will speak for you and determine how far you'll get. Love is on the rise, and advancement based on performance will be honored. Put more into your creative planning and you will impress onlookers. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are bright, articulate and astute. You are strong and unwavering.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4			1					3
	1		8				6	
	3			7			9	
							4	1
		8				7		
5	2							
	4			3			8	
	6				2		1	
2					9			5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	6	4	3	8	7	9	2
3	4	9	7	5	2	8	1	6
2	7	8	1	9	6	4	5	3
4	3	5	6	2	7	9	8	1
6	2	7	8	1	9	3	4	5
8	9	1	3	4	5	6	2	7
1	8	3	5	6	4	2	7	9
7	5	2	9	8	3	1	6	4
9	6	4	2	7	1	5	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BLOOD THINNERS Solution: 10 letters

E	E	T	E	K	M	H	D	E	N	T	N	A	L	P
L	K	Ⓣ	S	T	N	E	G	A	N	I	P	I	L	L
D	O	I	Ⓞ	E	E	A	G	E	R	D	A	A	A	A
E	R	N	D	Ⓛ	T	R	I	A	L	I	C	R	C	C
E	T	I	B	A	Ⓒ	T	F	V	R	I	O	R	B	I
N	S	R	Y	P	A	R	E	H	T	L	E	O	I	M
O	I	I	L	P	A	I	E	U	M	V	I	T	O	E
I	S	P	I	W	N	R	E	R	I	S	L	C	L	H
T	O	S	A	S	B	C	E	T	T	E	A	O	O	C
C	B	A	D	A	A	T	A	G	H	I	R	D	G	C
E	M	M	L	M	G	I	I	T	R	D	U	L	Y	O
T	O	S	R	N	L	N	I	O	O	U	T	L	D	A
O	R	A	O	L	G	T	N	E	M	T	A	E	R	T
R	H	L	A	E	S	I	U	R	B	S	N	C	U	E
P	T	P	R	E	V	E	N	T	I	O	N	N	G	D

© 2014 Universal Uclick www.wonderwordcom Join us on Facebook 12/12

Agent, Aspirin, Biology, Bleed, Brain, Bruise, Cell, Chemical, Clot, Coated, Daily, Doctor, Dose, Drug, Garlic, Ginger, Heart, Herbal, Long Term, Natural, Needle, Oral, Palliative, Patient, Pharmaceutical, Pill, Plan, Plasma, Prevention, Protection, Risk, Stroke, Studies, Test, Therapy, Thrombi, Thrombosis, Treatment, Trial, Veins, Warfarin

Yesterday's Answer: Buttonbox

Purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40 or 41** in time for the holidays by calling 1-800-642-6480. Order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

2-Maintenance & Repair Worker, 4-House worker & 3-Bookkeeper. $6.05/hour. Interested applicants, mail resume to MTO Maintenance at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan MP 96950

LOOKING TO LEASE

Looking for House, Apt, and Motel near Garapan area for long term lease. Call Zheng at 287-7676

APARTMENT FOR RENT

1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 1 Kitchen, Double Closet & AC. Fully Concrete with Security Bars and Deadbolt. Safe quiet area. Ahgaga Rd. Papago. $350/month including water. Call: 256-1219 or 783-5448.

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D' TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ISLA FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., Plaintiff, v. VICTORIA SN. BORJA and GENER P. DE JESUS, Defendants.	) CIVIL ACTION) NO.: 14-0205)) **AMENDED SUMMONS (For Publication)**

TO: VICTORIA SN. BORJA and GENER P. DE JESUS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:
DATED November 17, 2014

/s/ Kristy Diaz
CLERK OF COURT

Fourth Publication

"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"

26 years of making wishes of eligible children with life-threatening illnesses come true!

MAKE-A-WISH®

Visit us at
865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza
Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH
Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

LOST PASSPORT

Name : Li, Dong Gui
Passport No. : G37211122
Date of Birth : December 17, 1970
Date of Issue : September 09, 2009
Date of Expiry : September 08, 2019

If found, please call 288-6668

MGI MANPOWER GROUP INTERNATIONAL

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

50 COMMERCIAL CLEANERS
100 CONSTRCUTION WORKERS

Email resume to mgi.mapower@yahoo.com.
Tel: 1-670-989-8898

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft **$500**/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8.

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL 235-6527/28 or 285-1317

Job Vacancy Announcement

Rong Hua Corporation dba: O2 Spa

Manager
3 years' experience - Salary $6.05/hr
Speaking Japanese, Chinese, and English preferred.

Interested applicants may call 233-4825, 285-8018 or mail resume to PMB 698 Box 10003 Saipan, MP 96950

Computer Repair

Only $10 Student Laptop — Restore OS Call for more info.

Calvatron 233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday 9:00am - 7:00pm
www.calvatron.net

SHERMAN CONSULTING, LLC
P.O. Box 520800, San Jose Village, Tinian MP 96952
Tel. (670) 433-2664; Fax (670) 433-4329

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

Open Date	: Dec 05, 2014
Close Date	: Dec 12, 2014
Position	: (1) Bookkeeper
Rate	: $6.05 per hour
Qualification	: AA Degree or College Graduate (4) yrs experience

Link:http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-3031.00

Let's GO Tour Company is a new company on Saipan that specializes in offering unique day tours on the island. Our company is one of the first in the region to introduce the latest models of the Polaris RZR's all-terrain "side by side" vehicles that will take tourists on several breath-taking tours on Saipan. We are inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the position of:

Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) Travel Guide (6)

High school diploma or equivalent with at least six (6) months work or personal experience with All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and/or Utility Task Vehicles (UTV). Tour operation, sales or service experience is preferred. Must be able to set up and operate audio and video equipment. The position involves traveling to various tour locations to conduct tours for individuals or groups. It also requires routine inspection of sites and equipment to detect safety concerns. As the person in this position will frequently communicate with foreign markets, ability to speak Chinese/Mandarin or Korean or Japanese or Russian is desired.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_Int@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than December 17, 2014. Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the 2nd floor of the JP Center Building along Beach Road or at the Century Tours office at Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!

Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports,* the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!

Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA *Sports*. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!

To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

WHATZIT Solution: Hope springs eternal

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

WHATZIT © 2014 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Warriors beat Rockets for 14th straight win

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Steve Kerr knew he had a lot of expectations on him after taking over a Golden State Warriors team that Mark Jackson led to a 51-win season and back-to-back playoff appearances.

In less than two months, Kerr has built on his predecessor's success and eclipsed every rookie coach that came before him.

Klay Thompson and Stephen Curry shook off slow starts to finish with a flurry, and the Warriors extended their franchise-best winning streak to 14 games by beating the Houston Rockets 105-93 on Wednesday night.

Golden State improved its NBA-leading record to 19-2 and helped Kerr carve out a slice of history. Kerr became the first rookie coach to win 19 of his first 21 games.

"It means I'm the luckiest coach in NBA history," Kerr said. "Because I inherited a team that was already really good."

And apparently made them even better.

Thompson scored 21 points and Curry added 20 points, seven assists and seven rebounds to power an 11-0 run in the final minutes and turn a tight game into another comfortable win. About the only thing Kerr said he could complain about was the postgame meal, and he even laughed that off.

"You just want to pile up wins in the West," Kerr said. "Keep putting some numbers in the win column because there's 61 games left."

James Harden played through back pain to finish with 34 points and eight rebounds for the Rockets, who had won four straight and seven of eight despite center Dwight Howard being sidelined.

Howard (strained right knee) and Warriors big man Andrew Bogut (right knee tendinitis) both sat out with injuries, and the smaller lineups worked in Golden State's favor in the end.

The Warriors outscored Houston 32-17 in the fourth quarter.

"They're a good team and they broke us down a little bit," Harden said. "We got too spread out on defense."

The teams traded baskets for most of the game, and anytime one side began to pull away, the other followed with another spectacular play - until Golden State's final push.

Harden hit a tying 3-pointer with 4:45 remaining, and the Warriors answered in dramatic fashion: Draymond Green roared down the lane for a soaring dunk, Harrison Barnes started a three-point play with a driving layup over Harden and Thompson blocked Patrick Beverly from behind and finished a finger-roll layup on the other end.

AP

Houston Rockets' Patrick Beverley (2) drives against Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014, in Oakland, Calif.

But the Warriors still weren't done.

After the Rockets called timeout, Green came up with a steal and passed ahead to Curry for a layup. The Warriors got another stop and Thompson hit two free throws to give Golden State a 100-89 lead.

"You lose probably one of the top centers in the league (without Bogut), so we tried to make up for that by being quick and scrappy,"said Barnes, who finished with 20 points and seven rebounds.

Trevor Ariza and Donatas Motiejunas each scored 18 for the Rockets. Golden State outshot Houston 49.4 to 41.6 percent, and each team had 15 turnovers.

"They attacked us off the dribble and we didn't handle that very well, " Rockets coach Kevin McHale said. "They got some open stuff, and when they went small, it bothered us."

Hawks 95, 76ers 79

In Atlanta, Kyle Korver and Paul Millsap each scored 17 points, and Atlanta beat the Philadelphia 76ers 95-79 on Wednesday night for its eighth straight victory—the Hawks' longest winning streak in 17 years.

Korver sank five 3-pointers as Atlanta (15-6) posted its best streak since an 11-0 start to the 1997-98 season.

DeMarre Carroll had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Atlanta. The Hawks averaged 104 points in their first seven wins of the streak, but relied on defense against Philadelphia.

Alexey Shved had 13 points to lead the 76ers, who have won two of four since their 0-17 start. Luc Mbah a Moute had 12 points, and K.J. McDaniels and Jerami Grant each had 10.

Spurs 109, Knicks 95

In San Antonio,Marco Belinelli scored a season-high 22 points and short-handed San Antonio rolled to victory over the New York Knicks, who lost their 10th straight.

San Antonio, playing without its Big Four, was 10 for 19 on 3-pointers and shot 50 percent overall. The Spurs had seven players in double figures, getting 13 points from Danny Green and 12 from Boris Diaw.

San Antonio was without Tim Duncan, Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili and Kawhi Leonard. Parker (left hamstring) and Leonard (bruised right hand) were injured, but Duncan and Ginobili sat out to rest on the second night of a back-to-back.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 23 points on 9-for-18 shooting for the Knicks (4-20). New York was without Carmelo Anthony, who had soreness in his left knee after playing 39 minutes in a loss Tuesday at New Orleans.

Hornets 96, Celtic 87

In Charlotte, Al Jefferson had 23 points and 14 rebounds, and Charlotte withstood Boston's fourth-quarter rally to win.

Kemba Walker added 18 points, and Lance Stephenson had 13 for the Hornets, who led by 12 points in the third quarter and were up 87-79 with 8:05 left.

The Celtics—led by Marcus Thornton's 13 fourth-quarter points—pulled to 87-85 with 4:31 remaining. But Walker's three-point play and back-to-back baskets by Jefferson pushed Charlotte's lead to 94-85 with 1:19 left.

Rajon Rondo had a triple-double with 12 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Celtics. Jeff Green and Thornton led Boston with 16 points each, Tyler Zeller scored 13 and Brandon Bass 10.

Charlotte trailed by five at halftime before opening the third quarter with an 11-4 run.

Wizards 91, Magic 89

In Orlando, Bradley Beal converted a lob pass at the buzzer to lift Washington over Orlando.

John Wall led the Wizards with 21 points and 11 assists, Nene added 12 points, Kris Humphries scored 11, and Marcin Gortat had 10. Washington, which scored the final seven points, beat Orlando for the seventh straight time.

Victor Oladipo had 17 points to lead the Magic. Tobias Harris added 15, Elfrid Payton had 12, and Channing Frye and Kyle O'Quinn added 10 each.

The teams both shot only nine free throws, the first time this season each team had fewer than 10.

The Magic led 89-84 after Harris' dunk with 1:37 left in the game, but couldn't score again.

Clippers 103, Pacers 96

In Indianapolis, Jamal Crawford scored 18 points and DeAndre Jordan grabbed a season-high 19 rebounds, helping the Los Angeles Clippers hold off Indiana for their ninth straight win.

Los Angeles (16-5) ended a four-game skid against Indiana.

C.J. Miles scored a season-high 30 points and made six 3-pointers. Lavoy Allen had 14 points for Indiana (7-15), which has lost six straight.

The Pacers made a furious fourth-quarter charge after trailing 82-62 late in the third. They opened the fourth on a 12-4 spurt, got as close as five, but fell behind 95-87 with less than four minutes left.

Indiana closed to 98-96 on Allen's midrange jumper with 2:00 to play.

Bulls 105, Nets 80

In Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 23 points, Pau Gasol had 16 points and 16 rebounds, and Chicago beat Brooklyn.

Chicago had six players score in double figures, including all five starters. Jimmy Butler had 18 points, Mike Dunleavy scored 14, and Taj Gibson finished with 11 points, 10 rebounds and six blocked shots.

Deron Williams led Brooklyn with 17 points, but the Nets dropped their third straight. Kevin Garnett scored 13 points, and Alan Anderson had 12.

Chicago grabbed control with a 17-3 run in the third quarter.

Rose made a 3-pointer, and Gibson had a big dunk before Gasol capped the surge with four straight points, including two foul shots that made it 70-58 with 3:32 to go.

Mavericks 112, Pelicans 107

In Dallas, Monta Ellis scored 13 of his 26 points in the final 5 minutes, and Dallas outlasted New Orleans.

New Orleans had a chance to tie it in the final 6 seconds, but Ryan Anderson's 3-point attempt bounced off the rim. Dallas' Richard Jefferson grabbed the rebound, was fouled and made both free throws to seal the win.

Dirk Nowitzki, Chandler Parsons and Devin Harris scored 20 points each for Dallas.

Anthony Davis scored 31 points and added 11 rebounds before limping off the court in the fourth quarter for the Pelicans. Jrue Holiday added a season-high 30 points and 10 assists.

Timberwolves 90, Trail Blazers 82

In Minneapolis, Andrew Wiggins had 23 points, 10 rebounds and four assists, and Minnesota stunned Portland.

Corey Brewer had 19 points, eight rebounds, five assists, and five steals for the Timberwolves, who snapped a six-game losing streak and won for just the third time since Ricky Rubio went out with an injured ankle on Nov. 7. They outrebounded Portland 56-38 to overcome four key players being out with injuries.

Damian Lillard had 23 points and seven rebounds for the Trail Blazers. But LaMarcus Aldridge managed just 10 points on 3-for-14 shooting, and Portland turned the ball over 20 times while shooting 38.8 percent. The Blazers scored 16 points in the second quarter and 15 in the third, their two lowest outputs of the season and lost for just the second time in 16 games.

Aldridge missed his first six shots and went scoreless in the first half.

Nuggets 102, Heat 82

In Denver, The Denver Nuggets needed a lift before embarking on a tough stretch of games. The road-weary Miami Heat gave them the break they needed.

Wilson Chandler scored 17 points, Arron Afflalo had 16 and the Nuggets beat the Heat 102-82 on Wednesday night to snap a four-game losing streak.

Chris Bosh had 14 points to lead Miami, which has dropped four of its last five on the road after starting the season 5-2 away from home. The Heat are in the middle of a stretch of eight of 10 games on the road.

Scherzer could be seeking more than Kershaw

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Clayton Kershaw is considered the top pitcher in baseball, with three Cy Young Awards in four years for the Los Angeles Dodgers, an NL Most Valuable Player award and a $215 million, seven-year contract.

Max Scherzer may be seeking an even bigger deal as his talks on the free-agent market move forward.

"I'm not sure Kershaw is relevant," agent Scott Boras said Wednesday at the winter meetings, "because he's not a free agent."

Jon Lester became the first top-level, free-agent starting pitcher to reach an agreement this offseason, a $155 million, six-year deal with the Chicago Cubs that came together late Tuesday night and still must be finalized.

Scherzer turned down an offer from Detroit last March that would have paid $144 million from 2015-20. Kershaw has the largest contract for a pitcher in total dollars and has the sport's highest average salary at $30.7 million.

"The prominent pitchers that have signed, (Justin) Verlander or (Felix) Hernandez or Kershaw, were not free-agent players," Boras said. "And certainly if you put a performance like Kershaw into a free-agent market, you're going to get a much, much different calibration of value."

Scherzer's negotiations figure to stretch on for weeks or even into next year.

But other players were on the move or close to switching teams.

In trade talks, the Dodgers were trying to acquire shortstop Jimmy Rollins from Philadelphia and send All-Star second baseman Dee Gordon and right-hander Dan Haren to Miami. The Phillies started retooling by shipping left-handed reliever Antonio Bastardo to Pittsburgh for minor league lefty Joely Rodriguez.

Boston was discussing a deal to obtain left-hander Wade Miley from Arizona.

Among free agents, Houston agreed to an $18.5 million, three-year contract with Luke Gregerson and a $12.5 million, two-year deal with Pat Neshek, people familiar with the negotiations said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the deals with the right-handed relievers were subject to physicals.

And the Chicago White Sox finalized a $46 million, four-year contract with closer David Robertson after signing first baseman Adam LaRoche and reliever Zach Duke, and acquiring pitcher Jeff Samardzija in a trade with Oakland.

"I love what Rick Hahn has been doing this offseason," Robertson said of Chicago's general manager. "I feel like he's building a good squad that's really going to be a competitor next year, and I'm hoping that we end up back in the playoffs."

Lester's deal could open up the marketplace for other free agents and for players who may be available in trades, such as Philadelphia's Cole Hamels, Detroit's David Price, Cincinnati's Johnny Cueto and Washington's Jordan Zimmermann.

"That pitching market is going to move fast," New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

Lester helped the Red Sox win World Series titles in 2007 and '13. Boston made a $70 million, four-year offer during spring training, and after the Red Sox couldn't reach an agreement on a new deal in July, they traded him to Oakland. Boston fell about $20 million short with its offer this week.

"I think we would have liked to have had more chance for dialogue prior to the season," Red Sox general manager Ben Cherington said. "Why that didn't happen, maybe there's more than one reason. I think we can certainly learn from the process."

Owners approve new personal conduct policy

IRVING, Texas (AP)—NFL owners moved quickly and unanimously Wednesday to change the league's personal conduct policy. Now the question is how, or whether, the players' union responds.

The league announced it will hire a special counsel for investigations and conduct to oversee initial discipline, but Commissioner Roger Goodell will retain authority to rule on appeals. The commissioner also may appoint a panel of independent experts to participate in appeals.

Amid questions over his handling of domestic violence cases involving Ray Rice and Adrian Peterson, the union wants Goodell removed entirely from the disciplinary process. The players believe any changes to the personal conduct policy should be part of labor negotiations.

Asked whether he anticipated a challenge from the union, Goodell deferred to NFL general counsel Jeff Pash, who said the owners' decision was "entirely consistent with the collective bargaining agreement."

"I don't know whether the union will challenge it or not, but we've given it a lot of thought," Pash said. "And I would hope they don't challenge. We'd be happy to sit down with them again tomorrow if they wanted to have some further conversations about it. I don't think there's any need for legal challenges."

The union has sought negotiations with the NFL on any revamping of the policy, and said Tuesday it would "reserve the right to take any and all actions" should the owners act unilaterally. The union could consider the vote by owners a violation of the collective bargaining agreement reached in 2011, giving the union cause to file a grievance.

Among the union's options is pursuing an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board. The players could argue this policy is a change in terms and conditions of employment; the National Labor Relations Act says such changes in unionized situations are subject to collective bargaining.

"Our union has not been offered the professional courtesy of seeing the NFL's new personal conduct policy before it hit the presses," the union said in a statement issued after Wednesday's vote. "Their unilateral decision and conduct today is the only thing that has been consistent over the past few months."

Seattle cornerback Richard Sherman reiterated criticisms from other players Wednesday that the NFL was "making things up as they go along" by not pursuing policy changes through collective bargaining.

"You would think, you would hope anything having to do with the players and especially discipline and things like that players would have some say so in the policy," Sherman said. "At least something we could agree on, everybody is comfortable with, but obviously that isn't what they saw fit."

Christmas
starts at
DIAL
Starting At $26.95/week
Starting At $14.95/week
Starting At $18.95/week
Starting At $17.95/week
Brite Lite M2000
BLU
Studio 6 & Life View
Starting At $17.95/week
Bose SoundLink III
Starting At $16.95/week
Kareoke Magic Sing
LG LG Smart 4K Ultra HD
Starting At $15.95/week
iPad Air & ipad Mini
Starting At $12.95/week
This is a rent to own transaction. You don't own the product until all rental payments are completed. Example: $9.95 x 12 months= $517.40. *Some restrictions may apply, visit our stores for details.
NO CREDIT CHECKS
VISIT OUR NEW STORE!
MIDDLE ROAD 234-RENT
CHALAN KANOA 234-DIAL
DIAL Rent-to-Own

Shirley's, CBC battle for second finals berth

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Badminton Club and Community Badminton Club are in a tight race for the second finals berth heading into tonight's final play date in the 8th Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament.

Defending three-time champion Saipan Badminton Club is already assured of the first finals slot after collecting a whopping 80 points, leaving Shirley's and CBC to fight for the other berth.

SBC won 20 of the 10 points offered when it played against CBC last week and then blanked Taga Badminton Club, 15-0, in the first day of their match up on Dec. 7. SBC is aiming to win a fourth straight crown.

Shirley's currently has 62 points to enjoy a four-point edge over CBC's 58. CBC moved closer to Shirley's after posting a 12-3 score last Sunday.

Shirley's and CBC vie for second finals berth when they play matches in the mixed A, women's AB, C and BC, and men's C events.

Golden Racquets and Taga are contesting a place in the battle for third with the former having 38 points and holding on to a seven-point lead against the latter's 31.

Three points are awarded to a team that wins a match in two games, while 2 points are given to the winning squad and one to its opponent if the match goes to three.

JON PEREZ
Havika Farro of Community Badminton Club watches the direction of her shot during their game against Shirley's Badminton Club.

Teams can still sign up in Jets fundraiser

Interested teams can still join the Jets slow-pitch softball fundraising tournament, which will be held this weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Jets baseball team manager Froilan Camacho said he is still calling on all softball players who want to form a team and sign up before the games start tomorrow at 10am.

"We want everyone to enjoy a game of softball. I want interested teams to show their support in our fundraising tournament. They can still join the regular tournament by tomorrow," said Camacho.

So far six teams have joined the tournament and they are Team Akkari, Team Berdax, Team Man Gachung, Team Familia, and two from the Jets.

The tournament is co-ed with players in the over 14 age group allowed to compete. Two females must bat and be on the field at all times.

Entrance fee is $100 and teams are allowed a maximum of 20 players. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used for the Jets preparation for the upcoming Saipan Baseball League season.

A raffle will also be held during the event and exciting prizes like Pacific Islands Club water park passes, lunch and dinner buffets certificates at Kanoa Resort, PIC, and World Resort are up for grabs. Raffle ticket costs $1 each and if you buy five tickets you get one free.

For more information, call or text Camacho at 7890875 or email him at camacho_775@hotmaill.com. ***(Jon Perez)***

WSR

From Page 32

WSR's 7-0 rout of Koblerville. Costales, Diana Naanep, and Raemna Ramaru contributed one goal apiece.

Meanwhile, the WSR-Garapan title match will be played this Saturday at the 3pm, while San Vicente and Koblerville play in the consolation game at 1:30pm.

In the boys division, it will be Saipan International School against WSR and the finals will also take place at 3pm on the other pitch at Hopwood. SIS topped the semis with an unbeaten 3-0-0 record, as it downed WSR in the yesterday's game, 3-1. WSR finished at second with its 2-0-1 card, recording its first two wins against Dandan Middle School and Koblerville.

MIEKO

From Page 32

the 100-kilometer ride around Saipan in 3:30:36.

"I'm happy to win at my 'hometown.' More than winning, I'm happy that I could come back to Saipan, join the race, and always be reminded how nice everyone is in welcoming all visitors," Carey said.

Despite an early morning downpour, Carey experienced no problem during the race as she and the more than 160 other riders survived the slippery and treacherous course that started and ended in front of Mariana Resort & Spa.

"I didn't have any problem during the race. I think all of my training and effort paid off," added Carey, who pocketed the $1,250 top prize. "The road was really slippery that's why I was really careful when I'm going downhill."

She said that at first she decided to tag along with a large group of riders heading to the four corners—Banzai Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto and Suicide Cliff—but slowly pulled away as the race went on.

"It was part of my plan. I don't want to go out and be in front early in the race. I needed to save my energy since there are a lot more hills in the last half that started at Pacific Islands Club."

It was her first women's crown since winning the 2010 edition of the annual event. She previously won back-to-back titles, ruling the 2007 and 2008 races. Last year, Carey posted 3:15:09 and finished second to Australian Jodie Willet, who holds the best time in the women's division at 3:03:44, but failed to joined last weekend's race.

Saipan's Kimiko McKagan placed second behind Carey (4:11:44) this year, while Guam's Lynn Matix came in at third after crossing the finish line in 4:36:56.

OLEAI

From Page 32

cronesian Athletics Championships, while the 2021 Pacific Mini Games will be held on the island.

Harsh weather conditions plus years of use contributed to the deterioration of the Oleai track and field facility as black patches and bubbles formed on its surface.

DOHA

From Page 31

the valuable experience David Boyer and Angel De Jesus learned from the event's youth program. The two young swimmers were joined by former CNMI coach and Saipan Swim Club founder Bill Sakovich in the five-day event.

"They had sessions on nutrition, talks from former Olympians on how to be an athlete, video sessions where stroke and technique were analyzed, and trained daily with all the other participants. To top it all off they had a mini swim meet on the last day of the program. They also attended the finals each night and were able to witness the 18 world records broken over the course of the five-day meet," Winkfield said.

"All the swimmers represented the CNMI with pride and they were great ambassadors. It was neat seeing them having fun with other teams, developing friendships, and growing as student-athletes," he added. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

SIS

From Page 31

MBT in Palau.

Cepeda added he's been playing with Andrew Johnson for six years now as they started competing in the 7th grade.

Park, on the other hand, said that University of Washington would be his destination in college and he plans to major in business management. He said he is torn between continuing to play either soccer or volleyball.

"I really prefer soccer, but I kind of want to do both. I'm hoping to join a regular club team first and see where I can go from there. I'm not in the kind of NCAA level, even in Division II. That's a different league," said Park.

Kitami said he would concentrate with his studies, while Fong wants to play volleyball only for recreation when he goes to California.

"I would probably go to University of Hawaii at Manoa. I have no plans of playing since I want to concentrate more in finishing my degree in travel industry management," said Kitami, who only played volleyball this year. "I'm glad to become part of a champion team."

Meanwhile, Johnson, who was the Geckos' team captain, and Cepeda want the remaining members of the squad to continue SIS' winning tradition.

"Basically, everyone is even in our team. But as a captain I have to take responsibility. I am confident that the remaining team members will get even better as the years go on. All they have to do is have fun playing," said Johnson.

"We've been helping some of the younger guys in their practice and training. We're giving them tips. They just need to have fun and keep on winning championships," added Cepeda.

December King, Queen of the Lanes roll-offs

The December roll-offs for the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes will be held this weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Games for the final tournament for 2014 will start at 6pm on Saturday and 3:45pm on Sunday.

The tournament is exclusive for SBA members. All participating adult bowlers have to pay the Saipan Bowling Association annual membership fee of $15.

Bowlers have the option to compete on Saturday or Sunday or on both days, provided the $15 entry fee is paid. Only the highest score will qualify for prizes.

The number of bowlers will be limited to the first 48 entries for each day. Cash prizes will depend on the number of entries. The women's division will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

For early registration and payment, call Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288 5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com. ***(SBA)***

Brewers lead 5-team SBL cast

The GSM Brewers will return to defend their title as they led four other teams that showed interest in joining the new Saipan Baseball League season, which is tentatively set to open on Jan. 12.

The Brewers aim to keep the crown despite having a new manager. They will be joined by the Fielders, North Starz, and new clubs Jets and A's. Last year's runners-up Northern Yankees have yet to commit or express their interest in joining the league.

The SBL, during its organizational meeting last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym conference room, also discussed the deadline of team entry fees, league interval, uniforms, ground rules, regulation bats, and other related matters.

Waiver/roster forms were given out to all team representatives who attended the meeting and league coordinator Tony Rogolifoi advised the players, coaches, and managers to sign the waiver.

Big League players will be allowed to join the league provided they do not pitch. This rule will be enforced to prevent arm injuries.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 5:30pm at the gym's conference room to finalize plans for the upcoming season. Waiver/roster forms and entry fee will be accepted at the meeting. Game schedule and ground rules will be distributed, too.

Meanwhile, league organizers also shared with the teams details of the inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic (MBC), which the CNMI will host in July of 2016.

National teams from host CNMI, Guam, Palau, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap will converge on the island for some exciting and competitive baseball tournament.

For more information, call Rogolifoi at 234-6672. ***(SBL)***

CNMI jr. tennis players gain ranking points

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Clayton Izuka returns to Vincent Tudela during their boys U14 singles semis match in the 6th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth's junior tennis players received ranking points from Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association after competing in the opening week of the 6th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last month.

Tania Tan got the most points in NMITA's first tournament for the 2014-2015 season after collecting 1,250. She took 1,000 points for topping the girls U14 singles and extra 250 for winning the doubles event (with Julia Ishikawa) in the same age group.

Malikawa Miyawaki, who placed second to Tan in the singles event, bagged 750 for her runner-up finish and added 150 to her total (900) for taking the third spot in the doubles (with Grace Choi). Joining Miyawaki and Tan for the Top 3 most point getters in the girls U14 division was Ami Tsukagoshi, who earned 800 points, 600 for her third place finish in the singles and 200 for her runner-up performance in the doubles.

Other players who got ranking points in the girls U14 division were Mimi Sakano (700), Choi (450), Conatsu Kaga (400), Asia Raulerson (250), and Ishikawa (250).

In the boys U14 division, Robbie Schorr led the list with 1,200 points with 1,000 coming from his title conquest in the singles event against Vincent Tudela and the 200 from his runner-up finish (with Steven Goodwin) in the doubles.

Tudela, who partnered with Tony Kim in beating Schorr and Goodwin in the doubles finale, gathered 1,000, while Kim notched 850. Five others claimed ranking points in the division: Ken Song (550); Clayton Izuka (500); Goodwin (500); A.J. Hudkins (350); and Haruya Eda (250).

In the U18 division, Moris Villanueva topped the charts after beating Tommy Choi in the finals. Villanueva was awarded 1,000 points, while Choi settled for 750. Luther Lizama and Mikayla Lopez, who finished fifth and third in the singles collected 650 and 600 points, respectively, while the fourth placer Negahr Rastguiy tallied 500. Lizama, who got 400 points in the singles, had additional 250 in the doubles as he and Michael Ren won the event against Colin Ramsey and Sunny Cho.

Ramsey matched Rastguiy's 500 points after receiving 300 in the singles and 200 in the doubles, while Ren was the third player in the group to earn 500 points (250 each in the singles and doubles). Cho was given 350, Steve Lee received 200, and Eda gained 150.

Ranking points are needed to determine the CNMI's representatives to the North Pacific Championships. Besides the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, the Commonwealth's bets will get points from three other competitions this season—Coconut Classic (February), Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships (March), and the CNMI Junior Championships (April).

Winkfield lauds swimmers performance in Doha

Coach Jacoby Winkfield acknowledged the significant performance of three CNMI swimmers in last week's 12th FINA World Swimming Championships (25M) at the Hamad Aquatic Centre in Doha, Qatar.

"From a performance standpoint they all did exceptional. They all swam personal best times, which were encouraging since they were able to do so in a very big stage. They grew from the experience of having to perform at their best under pressure," said Winkfield, who was talking of Victoria Chentsova, Takumi Sugie, and Christian Villacrusis.

Chentsova joined the 400m and 800m freestyle races and recorded personal best times in both events. She registered 9:55.15 in the 800m freestyle to surpass her qualifying time (10:11.26) and then cut more than six seconds from her qualifying time (4:53.64) in the 400 freestyle after logging 4:47.05.

Villacrusis and Sugie duplicated Chentsova's feat. Both male swimmers earned PBTs in the 100m freestyle with Sugie submitting 59.38 seconds (from 1:00.67) and Villacrusis clocking in at 1:00.88 (from 1:05.29). In the 100 breaststroke, Villacrusis PBT was 1:18.93, about four seconds faster than his qualifying mark (1:22.35). Sugie's second PBT came in the 50m freestyle, as he timed in at 26.94 seconds (from 27.88 seconds).

Besides their notable performance in the races, Winkfield also lauded the three CNMI swimmers' showing off the pool.

"They learned a lot from watching world class athletes both in and out of the water. From how they carried themselves on the deck and in the water to how they warmed up and mentally prepared, and seeing how much dedication and commitment it take to be able to swim fast," said Winkfield.

The coach also mentioned

See DOHA on Page 30

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coach Jacoby Winkfield, left, and former Saipan Swim Club coach Bill Sakovich, third right, pose with the five CNMI swimmers who competed and joined the youth program in the 12th FINA World Swimming Championships (25M) last week at the Hamad Aquatic Centre in Doha, Qatar.

SIS vets to go separate ways in college

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five graduating senior members of many-time boys volleyball champion Saipan International School will go their separate ways in college next year with Andrew Johnson the only player planning to take his game into a higher level.

Johnson along with longtime teammate Chris Cepeda, Chris Park, Yuta Kitami, and William Fong will be attending separate colleges when they graduate at the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

"I'm choosing at mostly California colleges since it is the same weather like Saipan. I'm also looking at going to [California Polytechnic State University] in San Luis Obispo and hopefully play volleyball," said Johnson.

Johnson actually is a multisport athlete as he is also a member of SIS' basketball, soccer, and swimming teams. But it is in volleyball that he plans to spend most of his college athletic career.

Cal Poly is an NCAA Division I school and the Mustangs play in the Big West Conference. Sadly, the school doesn't have a men's volleyball team and the sport is not part of Big West's calendar.

Johnson said he plans to also tryout for the men's volleyball squad once he is in college, but would like to start playing for a club team first.

"There are some colleges that have volleyball clubs and they have leagues. So if you join the club and then play there some people will scout you," added Johnson, who has been playing volleyball since middle school.

Cepeda, meanwhile, wants to concentrate more in basketball after playing alongside Quincy Johnson in a Micronesian Basketball Tournament, while Park could not decide yet if he would choose volleyball or soccer.

"I plan to go to Pennsylvania in College but I want to play more basketball than volleyball," said Cepeda, who was also part of the Ed Manalili-coached U15 squad in the 2011

See SIS on Page 30

JON PEREZ
From left, Andrew Johnson, Chris Cepeda, Yuta Kitami, Chris Park, and William Fong are the five graduating senior members of the Saipan International School Geckos, who ruled last month's MISO volleyball league.

CNMI junior tennis players gain ranking points

PAGE 31

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Warriors beat Rockets for 14th straight win

PAGE 28

WSR vs Garapan in IFL girls finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Garapan Elementary School salvaged its season in the 2014 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League after earning a crucial 3-1 win over William S. Reyes Elementary School in the girls division semis game yesterday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

With the victory, Garapan concluded the semis round with a 2-0-1 win-draw-loss record, the same mark WSR and San Vicente Elementary School held. San Vicente, according to coach Alvin Borja, notched its second triumph after a similar 3-1 win against Koblerville Elementary yesterday, while WSR coach Melissa Dickinson provided the unofficial scores in the match between the Kingfishers and Mallards.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Williams S. Reyes Elementary School player beats two San Vicente Elementary School players for the ball during their semis game in the 2014 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League last Wednesday at the WSR pitch.

With the three teams tied for the top spots and only two advancing to the finals, a tiebreak will be implemented. Unofficially, WSR and Garapan won the tiebreak via goal difference with the Kingfishers getting nine and the Mallards tallying two. San Vicente had one.

The goal difference was the deciding factor in the standoff as the three teams were still even in the head-to-head category. San Vicente won over Garapan (3-0, forfeiture) last Tuesday, while WSR downed San Vicente last Wednesday, 4-0, before Garapan forced the three-way tie with its 3-1 triumph against the Kingfishers.

After dropping its first game in the semis, Garapan came back with a 3-0 thrashing of Koblerville last Wednesday at the Umangs pitch.

Sue Anne Huevos drilled a pair of goals for Garapan, while Vera Hapdei made the other goal to keep the Mallards' title hopes alive.

Also last Wednesday, WSR shut down San Vicente behind the hat-trick of Katrina Costales. She collected the three goals in successive fashion, while Pauline Grace Joyce recorded the other one. Earlier last Tuesday, Joyce scored four goals in

See WSR on Page 30

Mieko glad to win again at 'home'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Though Mieko Carey moved to Guam two years ago, her heart remains on Saipan, the place she has called home for more than six years.

Carey again made the trip up north, joining a 15-member Guam contingent that competed in the 8th Annual Hell of the Marianas century cycle race last Saturday.

The former Saipan resident said it was always great coming and competing here on Saipan. She has continued to compete in the XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman Triathlon despite leaving the island two years ago.

"I had a great time at home. It was very nice to see all of my Saipan friends and race with them," said Carey who claimed her fourth overall women's crown after finishing

See MIEKO on Page 30

JON PEREZ
Mieko Carey cruises along one of the flat roads in last Saturday's Hell of the Marianas century cycle race.

Oleai track to open in April or May

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association officials are aiming to open the Oleai track facility either in April or May next year as resurfacing will be in full swing as early as the first week of January 2015.

NMSA vice president Kurt Barnes, during the group's monthly meeting last week, reported to the board and its members that things are moving along quickly as they have planned.

"The money is already there. The barriers are already in place and we're already working with an engineer to get things started," said Barnes.

Barnes added that resurfacing of the track, funded from a Community Development Block Grant from the Northern Mariana Housing Corp., is NMHC's only project for this year.

"We also gained clearance from the [CNMI Historical Preservation Office]. We need to put up signs and replace the four-foot fence so people cannot just jump over. The [CNMI Zoning Board] also wants to get involved," said Barnes.

The new track oval, once completed, will have a light blue color not the usual pinkish-red hue.

NMSA has completed all the necessary paperwork the federal agency required in order to give clearance for renovating the track, which was originally certified as a Level II facility by the International Association of Athletics Federations.

Oceania Athletics Association officials, who visited Saipan last October to inspect the track facility, want to make sure proper resurfacing will be done for the track to last longer.

NMSA is hoping to get the track back to its former glory and ready to host international events in the future. Saipan is planning to host the 2017 Mi-

See OLEAI on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Resurfacing of the Oleai track and field facility is scheduled to begin next month.